

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Stop the draft!

No to Carter's 'pain & discipline' plan

Labor needs its own party to fight back

The following statement was issued March 19 by Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

The U.S. government is organizing a two-front war. One front against the workers and farmers around the world who are battling for justice, from Iran to Nicaragua. The other against the working people of the United States.

On one front, Carter is trying to draft the sons—and now the daughters!—of the working class to fight and die for corporate interests around the globe.

On the other front, Carter escalated the assault with his March 14 call for accepting "pain" and "discipline" at home. He announced an economic program of higher taxes, higher interest rates, higher prices at the gas pumps, fewer jobs, and cutbacks in public services.

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'Your money AND your life'

Socialist program to fight inflation

Socialist Workers Party candidates believe working people do not cause inflation and should not have to pay for it. The socialist program to fight skyrocketing prices includes the following:

- **Big wage increases** to make up for the ground already lost in workers' purchasing power. No government wage-price controls, which have always served only to keep wages down while corporations raise prices at will.

- **Cost-of-living adjustment** clauses in all pay scales and benefits. Everytime the costs of businesses go up, they automatically "pass along" the increase to consumers. Workers should have automatic increases when the costs of life's necessities go up.

Inflation hits hardest at those out of work, and COLA should apply to unemployment and disability benefits, pensions and social security, and all welfare programs.

Continued on page 4

Special offer to antidraft demonstrators

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Right-wing bombers on the loose

Ultra-right terrorists struck again in New York City.

On March 13 a two-alarm fire broke out at the offices of the Angolan Mission to the United Nations. No one was reported hurt, but the offices were damaged and hundreds of other occupants of the building had to be removed. A caller from Omega 7 claimed responsibility for firebombing the Angolan offices.

Omega 7 is an anti-Castro Cuban exile group that has carried out a series of bombings and murders in New York and elsewhere over the past several years. These ultra-rightists and racists hate the Castro government for giving aid that enabled Angola to defeat the South African invasion of 1976.

On March 17 a powerful bomb was set off at the New York offices of Jugobanka, the Yugoslav bank. Fortunately, no one was hurt. But the explosion ripped an eighteen-inch hole in the concrete floor, knocked down the front wall and doors, and loosened an elevator shaft door from its moorings.

The ultra-right "Croatian Liberation Forces" claimed responsibility for the blast.

According to Jeff Stein, who has done a thorough exposé on Omega 7 (see last week's *Militant*), there is a probable connection between Omega 7 and the Croatian rightists. He reports in the March 10 *Village Voice* that "financing for this [Croatian rightist] activity, according to FBI sources, is coming from Paraguay and [ousted Nicaraguan dictator] Somoza's coffers." Omega 7 reportedly receives funds from the same source.

The assailants are well known to the authorities, as Stein documents.

The government's failure to apprehend the criminals can only be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to encourage rightist violence.

This is so obvious that the police assigned to guard the Cuban Mission petitioned in court March 17, saying that the Cuban Mission was a "bomb-prone location" and that standing nearby endangered their "health, safety and welfare." They asked to be allowed to sit in police cars and "view the premises from a safer distance."

Even the cops on the beat know that the rightists plan more terror action, and that the higher-ups plan to do nothing about it!

This is an outrage. Protests are urgently needed. Demand that the government stop the right-wing terrorists now, before they strike again.

Arrest the bombers now!

Pinto trial secrecy

The Ford Motor Company got away with murder when it was found not guilty of reckless homicide in the Winamac, Indiana, Pinto trial.

The jury deliberated nearly four days in the case of three young women who died when their Pinto exploded in flames after being rear-ended.

Members of the jury told reporters they finally voted not guilty March 13 because they felt they had insufficient evidence to convict the giant carmaker.

For good reason.

The presiding judge systematically excluded from evidence Ford documents which confirm that the company knew from the outset that the Pinto gas tanks were unsafe. The company simply decided that it would be cheaper to settle possible damage claims than to improve the safety of the car.

After a cost analysis, Ford had decided not to add a \$6.65 part that would have helped protect the flimsy gas tank.

The three teenage Indiana victims were among fifty-nine people known to have died as a result of accidents in the Pinto.

The company knowingly put the defective car on the market in 1971 and repeated the

lethal design until 1976.

The Pinto was not recalled until a magazine exposé compelled the government to intervene in 1978.

Ford's acquittal in the Pinto trial stemmed from its ability—through legal maneuvering and with the aid of a servile judge—to keep secret its own records on Pinto safety. Just as in the oil companies' contrived shortages, "business secrecy" served to cover up a criminal conspiracy against the public interest. And this time the crime was cold-blooded murder for profit.

Our new look

On pages 20 and 21 this week the *Militant* inaugurates two new columns of commentary and analysis. In "Their Government," Fred Feldman will keep a watchful eye on the shenanigans and skulduggery of the big-business politicians, parties, and government.

In "Reading from Left to Right," Gus Horowitz will comment on items of interest appearing in the press—whether it is calling worthwhile material to our readers' attention or critically dissecting the positions taken by either big-business or left publications.

In addition to these occasional columns, we plan to step up the frequency of our other two opinion columns—"By Any Means Necessary" by August Nimtz, and "Women in Revolt" by Suzanne Haig. "Union Talk," open to guest commentary by our readers in the labor movement, will continue to be a regular feature.

Increased use of our columns is one of the ways the *Militant* is working to keep our readers on top of today's big political developments, at a time when soaring costs have forced us to trim the maximum size of the paper to twenty-eight pages instead of our former thirty-two.

In a related change, we have dropped the "In Brief" section of the *Militant* in favor of a more flexible use of short news and analysis items throughout the paper.

We welcome readers' comments on the new columns, as well as suggestions on how we can make the *Militant* more informative and effective in building the socialist movement.

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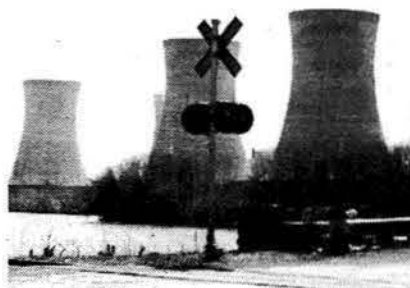


Nicaraguan workers take over factory

As Sandinista-led government issued decree against economic sabotage by capitalists, one plant's employees decided to take the matter into their own hands. Page 18.

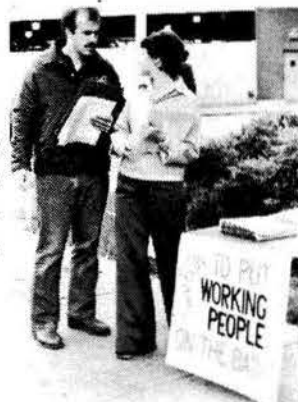
Mass. socialists set ballot drive

Boston SWP congressional candidate discusses the issues before area working people that make signature-gathering effort so important for 1980 election. Page 15.



More horror at Three Mile Island

One year after the nuclear accident, plant owner and government are moving to release large quantities of radioactive gas, contending the reactor might go 'critical' at any time. Page 7.



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Black leaders build March 22 as antidraft teach-ins spread

By August Nimtz

On the eve of the March 22 National Mobilization Against the Draft in Washington, D.C., Black, student, Puerto Rican, and trade union leaders have intensified their efforts to insure a massive turnout.

In the last days before the demonstration, numerous teach-ins, picket lines, and other protest actions have been held throughout the country.

Black civil rights leaders continue to give strong backing to the march. Several held a news conference in Washington, D.C., March 18 to urge a big turnout from the Black community.

U.S. Rep. Parren Mitchell of Baltimore said "I oppose the idea of ending Black youth unemployment by drafting Black youth. That process is not the solution to unemployment for Black youth or anyone else . . . I will be participating on March 22 as actively as I can."

Pam McCurdy, political director of the Organization of Afro-American Students at American University, declared, "I am here to state as a representative of a coalition of Black student leaders [in Washington] that we defy the draft."

On the proposal to draft women, McCurdy said "The question is not whether women are physically capable of fighting. We know we can. The point is that women have an equal right with men to oppose the draft."

Other speakers included Vince Benson, vice-president of D.C. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and president of Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Local 1906 (see box); Joe Wright, one of the Wilmington 10; Bobby Seale, former Black Panther leader; and Patrick Lacefield, Project Coordinator of the National Mobilization Against the Draft.

The news conference was widely covered by the local Black news media.

The San Diego Committee Against Registration and the Draft distributed a letter signed by six prominent unionists. It urged union members "to join us in supporting" the March 22 rally. They denounced the use of young people "as cannon fodder in the service of corporate interests abroad."

The signers, who acted as individuals, included Lee Pearson, business representative of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 685; Caroline Ferrar, vice-president of Communications Workers of America, Local 11509; and Wanda Faust, vice-pres-



March 8 antidraft protest in Morgantown, West Virginia

Black labor leader says 'draft is union issue'

The following are excerpts from the statement made by Vince Benson, president of Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Local 1906, at the March 18 news conference in Washington, D.C. The news conference was held to build the March 22 demonstration.

I think that when we consider what has happened in the last decade, the positions that various administrations have taken have allowed a climate to exist in which it is assumed that working people are automatically to be turned into cannon fodder for a war, real or imagined. In this situation the draft has to be a primary question for any trade unionist.

Ten years ago a lot of people in the trade union movement were not so ready to question the positions

of the administration. Today, that is not the case. Today there is serious questioning of foreign policy in the unions about how it affects us in terms of economic questions at home and what our position should be on the draft.

We can't miss the boat this time the way we did last time in the labor movement. During the Vietnam War it took a massive student movement to begin to prick the consciousness of working people, before we actively came out in any real numbers against the war.

But I will say this: once that did happen, once labor organizations did get more involved in the winding down of the Vietnam War, what we saw happen was a very quick stopping of that process. Today, I think we find ourselves in a vastly different position than we were in in the previous conflict.

ident of the California Federation of Teachers.

At the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor a four-day teach-in was

held March 13 to 16. The student assembly sponsored a campus-wide boycott of classes for one of the four days.

Lolita Lebron backs march

The following are excerpts from a statement by Lolita Lebron in support of the March 22 antidraft action.

Lebron is one of four Puerto Rican nationalists who were freed last September after more than twenty-five years in U.S. prisons.

The reimposition of the draft on the people of Puerto Rico and on the Puerto Ricans, North Americans, Latin Americans, and minority ethnic groups residing in the United States must be categorically and definitively repudiated.

This measure taken by Carter is a desperate maneuver of a dying economic system which clearly no longer has the possibility of maintaining the world domination it has held in the past.

I call upon all Latinos and all minorities in the United States, victims of the political and economic exploitation of that empire, not to join the armed forces and to denounce Carter's call for registration and the draft.

In New York City, a teach-in at the New School for Social Research drew 250 people. Another at Hunter College in New York drew 50. A broadly sponsored teach-in was held March 19 on the Columbia University campus.

On March 13 a marine recruiter on the Oberlin College campus in Ohio was met by 200 antidraft demonstrators.

Antidraft picket lines were staged in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago, Morgantown, West Virginia, and other cities.

In Newport News, Virginia, and Indianapolis, Indiana, figures from the labor and antinuclear movements participated in successful news conferences to build March 22.

Organizing among high school students moved forward with the formation of a new Mobilization Against the Draft chapter in Brooklyn and a city-wide high school coalition in San Diego.

NO DRAFT!

Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, are campaigning against Washington's plans to send American youth to fight and die in new Vietnams. Join us!

- ☐ Add my name to the list of Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann.
- ☐ Send me Andrew Pulley's brochure, How to stop the draft—4¢ a copy.
- ☐ Send me the campaign poster "No draft"—3¢ a copy.
- ☐ Send me the YSPZ antidraft button—50¢ each, 35¢ each for 10 or more.
- ☐ Send me a one-year subscription to the *Young Socialist* newspaper. Enclosed is \$1.

☐ I want to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

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Join the YSA!



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Matilde Zimmermann
Socialist Workers Party
candidate for vice-president

8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
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Washington, D.C.

...labor needs its own party to fight back

Continued from front page

This austerity program will have catastrophic consequences for the big majority of the American people. Yet it has the support of Democratic and Republican politicians alike.

To protect our interests against both austerity and militarization, working people urgently need our own political party—a labor party. We need to put the power of the union movement into a political fight against war and the draft, against cutbacks, and for jobs and decent living standards.

Carter's austerity measures aim, above all, to make working people pay the multi-billion-dollar cost of strengthening the Pentagon war machine.

Washington just moved more ships and marines to the Arabian Sea to threaten Iran and Afghanistan. U.S. weapons and "advisers" are in El Salvador to prop up a bloodstained military junta there.

Last year the U.S.-backed dictatorships of the shah in Iran and Somoza in Nicaragua were overthrown by mass popular insurrections. Carter is desperately trying to roll back those movements.

'National unity'

Carter's March 14 speech called for "the same national unity . . . in meeting the challenge of inflation" as in the "crises abroad."

But the large opposition to the draft proves there is not unity behind the war drive. The popular slogan, "We won't die for Exxon," expresses the growing belief that Washington's foreign policy does not protect the interests of the majority of Americans, but only corporate profit interests.

And so it is with Washington's economic policy.

Carter calls it a war against inflation. It is really a war against the victims of inflation.

Carter's program—from raising military spending to decontrolling energy prices to taxing gasoline another dime a gallon—will worsen inflation, not curb it.

Our standard of living will go down even faster, while the oil companies, the military contractors, and other corporate giants increase their profits.

The budget will be balanced on the backs of the poor, the jobless, the sick, the elderly, the disabled. The billions of dollars slated to be cut from education, medical care, jobs programs, food stamps, mass transit, and other worthwhile social services are going to buy more missiles, bombs, tanks, and aircraft carriers.

What do the other Democrats and Republicans running for president have to say? That Carter does not go

far enough!

Reagan says he wants even more military spending and even deeper social cutbacks. Anderson says Carter is not raising gasoline prices high enough. Kennedy demands a wage-price freeze, which he knows means only a wage freeze; he says Carter did "too little, too late."

None of these candidates can speak for the interests of the majority of Americans.

They can't speak for youth. Young people need schools and jobs, not the draft. They need a future, not a flag-draped coffin.

The Democrats and Republicans cannot speak for Blacks or Latinos. Black and Latino communities—already suffering unemployment twice as high as for whites, already seeing their schools and hospitals wrecked or closed—will feel the most disastrous effects of austerity.

Black and Latino youth will be the first to lose their jobs in a new recession and the first to lose their lives in a new war, just as they were in Vietnam.

The Democrats and Republicans let Ku Klux Klan terrorists run free, then tell Blacks to go fight for "freedom" halfway around the world. They let Immigration Service cops rape and murder Mexicans at the border, then tell Chicanos to go defend "our" country.

ERA

The Democrats and Republicans cannot speak for women. These parties refuse to pass the Equal Rights Amendment and then tell women to support the draft to prove they are equal.

They blame unemployment on too many women looking for work while women are forced to work by the high cost of living. And their recessionary policies will help the employers push women out of better-paid and skilled jobs won through affirmative-action battles.

The Democrats and Republicans cannot speak for labor. They claim inflation is caused by high wages, while wages fall further behind prices. Whenever a union is forced to strike to defend past gains or try to catch up, the two bosses' parties are ready with strikebreaking laws, injunctions, courts, and cops.

Health, safety, and environmental standards won by the union movement are eliminated by the same politicians union money helped elect.

The union movement, twenty million strong and firmly organized in the heart of American industry, has the power to lead the fight of all victims of the war-austerity drive. And that's



PULLEY, ZIMMERMANN: 'We need to put power of the union movement into a political fight.'



Militant photos by David McDonald

where labor's interests lie.

The unions can and should bring the power of labor solidarity to aid the Kansas City fire fighters, the oil workers, the New York City transit workers, the antidraft youth, and the fighters for the ERA—everyone who wants to oppose paying with their rights and lives for the profits of the rich.

And the unions can do much more. For these struggles show the need for, and point the way to, a new political policy.

'Labor's dilemma'

On Labor Day last year the head of the California AFL-CIO, John Henning, said:

"Labor's dilemma is clear enough: the two-party system is no longer serving the economic and social interests of the American working people. Indeed, the two parties appear as simply one institution, with Democratic and Republican departments alike financed by the corporate community. It is that way in state after state across the nation. . . .

"In the face of such financial realities and realizing there is no present alternative to the one-party structure, labor must consider the advantages of a separate political party."

We agree. *The time for a labor party is now, 1980.*

The official inflation rate now is 18 percent. Can anyone think this year's contracts will keep up? Without labor political action, what progress can there be toward labor's historic goal of bettering the condition of workers?

Will Carter's cutback budget meet the health care, retirement, education, housing, transportation, or job goals of the labor movement? No one, starting

with Carter, pretends it will: None of the other Democrats or Republicans pretends to offer more.

The labor party idea should be discussed by union members everywhere, and discussion should lead to action.

A labor party could speak and fight for unorganized workers, the unemployed, farmers, women, youth, Blacks, Latinos, opponents of nuclear power. It could be the party that fights against the draft and militarism.

Carter has declared war. A labor party based on the unions is the political power we need to answer him.

SWP campaign

That is the perspective we are campaigning for as Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president. In the face of Carter's war-austerity offensive, we appeal to our supporters to redouble their campaign efforts. We want to bring the socialist alternative to capitalist militarism and austerity into the union halls, onto the high school and college campuses, and into the communities from coast to coast.

To break through the two-party monopoly in the news media and on the ballot is a tremendous undertaking. At the end of this month our supporters are mobilizing to collect the tens of thousands of signatures needed to get the SWP on the ballot in Massachusetts [see page 15].

If you agree that youth should not have to die for Exxon; if you agree that working people should not have to sacrifice their jobs and wages for the capitalist war machine; if you agree that the Democrats and Republicans offer no alternative, we urge you to join us.

...Socialist Workers program to fight inflation

Continued from front page

COLA should be pegged to the real rate of inflation, as determined by the unions, not the doctored-up official Consumer Price Index.

• **Repeal the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act.** Working people need unions, and these unions need the right to organize and to strike in order to effectively fight for a decent standard of living.

• **Nationalize the energy industry.** Soaring energy prices are the biggest inflation crisis working people face. Energy is too vital to our lives and survival to be left in the hands of the greedy oil profiteers. The entire industry should be taken over by the government and converted into a public utility. Its every aspect should be open to public scrutiny. Workers in the oil fields, refineries, coal mines, and power plants could help make sure the truth is exposed. Through their unions or plant committees, these workers

should have the right to control job conditions.

Management of the nationalized industry should be put into the hands of an elected board closely watched by the unions and consumer groups. Everything must be in the open.

• **Funds for jobs and human needs, not war.** The \$150 billion military budget not only causes inflation, it threatens the very existence of humanity. The money should be used instead for massive public works projects to provide needed schools, hospitals, and mass transportation. It should be used to expand, rather than cut back education, child care, and health care.

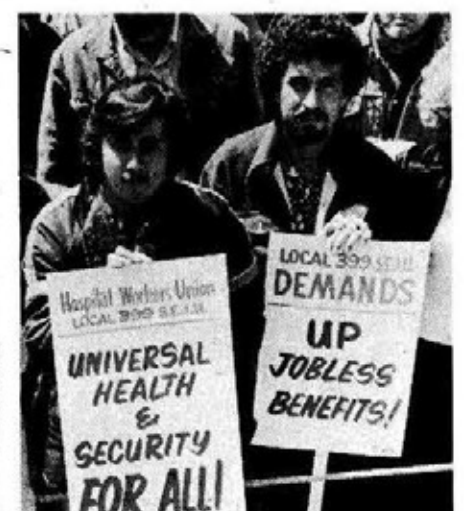
• **Price committees** initiated by the unions and involving workers, farmers, and other consumers. These committees would closely monitor price hikes so that consumers would not have to rely on data provided by the government and industry.

To move toward controlling prices, these committees would have to demand that the financial records of retailers and manufacturers alike be opened to public inspection. Then the truth about corporate tax swindles,

withholding of goods and resources to create scarcities, executive salaries, and cover-ups of workers' safety and health conditions would all be out in the open—along with the real scope of their exorbitant profits.



Militant/Jon Flanders



Militant/Harry Ring

What Carter's plan means for workers

By Stu Singer

Carter began his March 14 speech by saying that "high inflation threatens the economic security of our nation." But instead of putting forward a program to slow inflation or to protect people from its effects, Carter announced plans that will drive down the living standards of working people still further.

Carter offered four "disciplines": "discipline by reduction in the federal government; discipline by restraints on credit; discipline in wage and price actions; and discipline by greater conservation of energy."

• **Gasoline tax.** Gasoline prices have nearly doubled in the past year. But Carter is imposing a ten-cent-a-gallon tax increase on gasoline. It is presented as a move to reduce oil imports, but the government admits the effect there will be negligible.

As with any sales tax, the burden will fall hardest on those least able to pay. Working people have already cut down driving because of high costs. But most of us have no choice about using the car if we are going to find a job, get to work, or get away for a few days' vacation a year.

The \$13 billion the government will collect from us this year and next from the new gas tax will help the Pentagon buy fuel for the huge fleet it now has steaming around the Arabian Sea.

• **Budget cutbacks.** Carter pledged a balanced budget by fiscal 1981 by cutting spending. There will be no reduction in military spending. The \$20 billion increase announced in January will be maintained.

The White House has not specified all the budget cuts; Carter prefers to wait until after key primary elections. He did say he would immediately freeze federal civilian hiring and cut 20,000 federal jobs by next October.

A congressional group working closely with the administration has revealed some proposed cuts. They include: \$1.7 billion from state revenue sharing (which goes largely to education); \$500 million by eliminating 50,000 public service jobs; \$400 million from children's health programs; \$470 million from food stamps; \$800 million from reducing cost-of-living protection

for federal pensioners; and \$200 million from aid to the poor for energy costs.

• **Credit tightening.** The Federal Reserve Board will use a variety of means to increase interest rates. The aim is to push the country into a recession, which has come more slowly than the administration had hoped.

Carter lectured us that "consumers have gone in debt too heavily." But who could buy a car or a home without buying on time? And Carter didn't mention what happens to the economy when the auto industry and home-building go into a slump.

• **Wage guidelines.** Under new federal guidelines, wage increases should "average 8.5 percent," Carter said. That is, the weight of the federal government will be used to keep wage

increases to about half the rate at which prices are rising.

• **Taxes.** Two years ago the Carter administration pushed through whopping increases in Social Security taxes. This regressive tax on wages is one of the biggest bites the government takes out of the average worker's paycheck. The maximum Social Security tax just went up \$400 at the beginning of this year and will rise again next year.

It was earlier promised that income taxes would be correspondingly reduced to lessen the slash in workers' incomes. But as part of the new austerity plan, the administration now says tax cuts are out of the question this year.

On the other hand, Carter promised business that once the budget is balanced, he will seek "longterm structural

changes to encourage productivity, savings and research and development." These are code for reducing taxes on corporate profits.

Carter ended his speech by acknowledging that "the actions I've outlined involve costs. They involve pain. . . .

"In crises abroad, we've always shown our ability to respond with steadfastness and with courage. We must now show the same determination and the same national unity, the same national commitment, the same partnership, in meeting the challenge of inflation."

But it is somehow hard to picture the partnership between the "pain and discipline" president and the tens of thousands of workers who will lose their jobs or the millions of others who are the victims of Carter's plan.

Jimmy Carter presents discipline and pain

DISCIPLINE

MX missile system	\$41.6 billion
XM-1 tank	\$1.2 billion
CIA (estimated)	\$2 billion
Military research and development	\$16.5 billion
Direct military spending (to increase at a rate of 4.6 percent a year after inflation).....	\$146.2 billion

PAIN

Cut 50,000 of 450,000 CETA jobs	\$500 million
End unemployment benefits for CETA workers	\$200 million
Stop cost-of-living-adjustment in pensions of federal workers	\$800 million
Reduce Environmental Protection Agency funds	\$262 million
Pare down school lunch program	\$200 million
Lop from non-military scientific research	\$100 million
Shrink state revenue sharing	\$1.7 billion
Increase Social Security taxes in 1981 by	\$15 billion

What really causes inflation?

There is no doubt that inflation is the number one issue worrying American working people today. In his January 14 statement on the economy, Carter gave an explanation of inflation tailored to justify his policies.

He said inflation is caused by "the soaring price for energy throughout the world, declining productivity growth . . . and our failure in Government and as individuals . . . to live within our means."

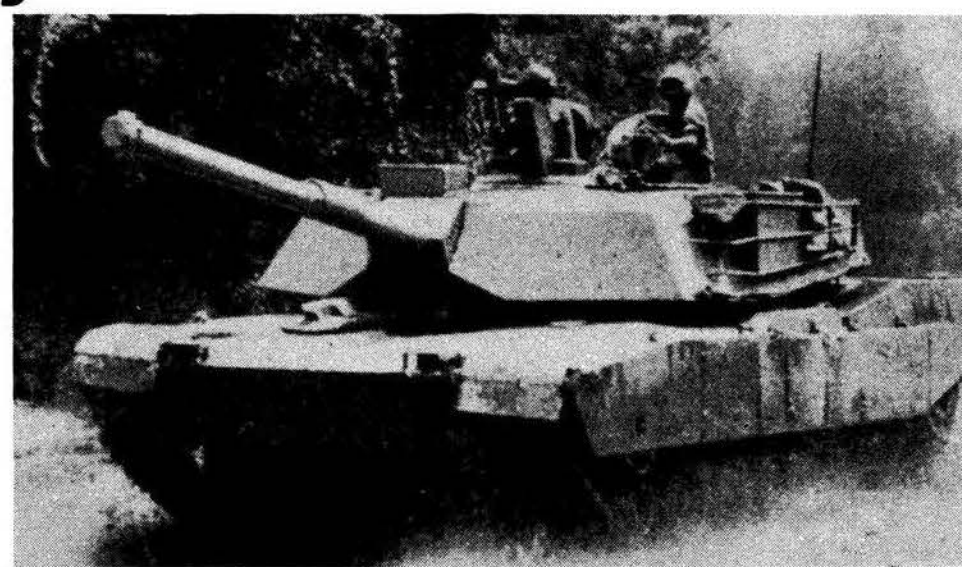
Carter wants us to blame OPEC for the oil price increases. He wants us to forget that it is the U.S. oil companies that profit most from the rising prices, and that his moves to decontrol oil prices and impose a gasoline tax are sending prices still higher.

Carter's complaint that "we" fail to live within our means is his way of blaming us for inflation. We eat too much, too many of our children go to college, we drive the long distances to our jobs, our homes are too warm in winter, and there is too much food on our tables.

The truth is the opposite. Big business, with administration support, is forcing us to live within smaller and smaller means, and taking more for itself.

Families have to cut back spending, and more family members have to get into the job market.

People are cutting the quality of the food they eat.



Chrysler will get billions to build the XM-1 tank, which plays no productive role in society. It cannot plow a field, build a road, or carry children to school. Military spending like this distorts the economy and causes inflation.

There are drastic reductions in our ability to save money or take a vacation.

Skyrocketing interest rates make it harder to buy a car and almost impossible to buy a home—while apartment rents are soaring.

Our health, is threatened as medical costs hit new highs.

Look out when a millionaire peanut processor who pays his workers minimum wage complains that you live "above your means." It just means

that he aims to get more of your means into his coffers, and into those of rich people like him.

The real causes of inflation are not the ones Carter points to. Carter doesn't point to them because he has no intention of doing anything about them.

Inflation is built into capitalism at its present stage. As the economy has become more monopolized, the biggest capitalists can raise prices with less concern for competition. The oil and

food industries are good examples of this.

Military spending creates inflation. It is pure social waste. The vast amounts spent on arms distort the entire economy. The military budget is financed through deficit spending. In essence, money is printed to pay for these weapons. The new paper money that is issued does not reflect an increase in the value of goods produced.

That means more paper money is needed to buy the same commodity. Inflation.

The government and media drum into our heads the idea that wages cause inflation. It isn't true. The experience of wage earners in the past year is solid proof.

In 1979 the Consumer Price Index rose more than 13 percent. The necessities—food, housing, energy, and health care—rose more than 17 percent. But wages and salaries rose less than 9 percent.

The Labor Department admits that the purchasing power of the average blue-collar worker's wages—after taxes and inflation—dropped more than 5 percent last year.

The proposals in Carter's plan won't stop inflation, but stimulate it. His program means "pain and discipline" for the American people, but easy living and high profits for the employers.

La. oil workers fight hazards and scabs

By Joel Aber
and Susan White

NORCO, La.—Norco, the New Orleans Refining Company, is composed of the Shell and Good Hope oil refineries and a community of a few dozen houses.

On March 1, when their contract expired, 160 workers at the Good Hope independent refinery joined their fellow members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers on strike. Together with the 700 strikers at Shell, this makes Norco a center of the OCAW strike in southern Louisiana, where 3,200 oil workers are out in total.

The strike at most oil refineries involves a wage reopener in the existing two-year contract. But at Good Hope the additional issues in dispute, especially job safety and an end to union-busting subcontracting, loom very large.

When we came here on March 8 a worker on the picket line told us that explosions occur at the plant almost every week, giving Good Hope a reputation as one of the most unsafe refineries in the nation.

Travis Edwards and Lewis Grady, two strike leaders for OCAW Local 4-447, talked to us about safety at their local's headquarters in the shadow of the catalytic cracking towers of the refinery.

The grounds of the plant are covered with oil slicks, said Grady. It would take a ten-person crew up to five years to clean up the plant, according to an official of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Noise pollution

Noise is a problem, too. Mufflers are needed on the compressors. The lines need to be insulated. But the contract language on job safety is vague, and the company tries to avoid doing anything. "We got ear muffs and plugs only a year and a half ago," said Grady.

Next to the Good Hope refinery are two rows of modest wood-frame houses and the Little Hope Baptist Church. Last Christmas day, Grady recounted, a big explosion covered the buildings with black oil. "The community is behind us 100 percent to get this place safe."

The residents here are up in arms again because the company is using helicopters to carry tons of piping into the plant over the picket line. People are afraid that a precariously perched



Los Angeles-Long Beach harbor. In background are tankers lying at anchor, unable to deliver oil to the refineries where OCAW is on strike. Shipments came to a halt March 11, when Seafarers International Union, which has contracts covering many tugboat operators, agreed to join other harbor-area unions and respect OCAW picket boats.

piece of pipe may fall from a helicopter and crash into a home.

The company's use of subcontracted labor is also a key issue. The company has sixty-eight workers under subcontract to a fictitious nonunion company known as TCP, Grady told us. They are "doing our bargaining unit work."

Good Hope began by using only fifteen TCP employees, supposedly hired on a temporary basis. Since then the number has grown, creating a parallel work force of nearly seventy maintenance workers, outnumbering the fifty-nine OCAW workers in maintenance.

During negotiations, the company refused to tell the union who owns TCP, or even what the initials stand for.

When OCAW took to the picket lines, the "TCP" workers were provided with rented trucks and special blue buses to bring them into the plant.

'Right to work'

To the owners of Good Hope, the "right to work" laws of Louisiana mean the right to employ scabs and to use any tactic necessary to bust unions.

"This is Jimmy the scab," Edwards said, pointing to a photo of a scowling man with a crew cut, one of several such photos put up on the walls of the union headquarters.

"And this is his son," he added. It was a photo of a man leaning against a pickup truck in front of the picket line. He was brandishing a rifle, threatening them.

Company officials and sheriff's deputies claim they do not know the identity of the rifleman. But the strikers know who he is.

St. Charles Parish Judge Thomas Bradley has slapped an injunction on the union, requiring pickets to stay at least five feet apart, with only three pickets to a gate. To appear impartial, the judge's order also says that scabs entering the plant must stop at the picket line for three seconds!

Workers at the neighboring Shell refinery know Bradley well. Before being elected judge, he was a manager at Shell for many years. Now he is simply carrying out company policy from the judge's bench.

The oil workers are determined to stick it out as long as it takes.

Indignation rose in Travis Edwards' voice as he told us, "The owners got a 97 percent profit increase. Inflation is going up at a rate of 20 percent. But the companies turn around and say they can only give us a 10 percent raise!"

"They've got all the money in the world. But we can win because we're right."

By John Williams

NEW ORLEANS—"The people of the parish [county] are solidly behind us," says Kelly Lambert, spokesperson for 200 striking oil workers at the Chevron Chemical Company in Belle Chasse, south of New Orleans. "Many of them have stopped by the strike headquarters to wish us well."

Lambert's words are backed up by evidence apparent to any visitor: the passing motorists who honk their horns in greeting at the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers picket line outside the refinery, and the friendly waves of the hand by the picketers of OCAW Local 4-447.



After Chevron owners painted a large property line outside their plant in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, OCAW strikers were forced to set up their picket line dangerously close to the highway. Several were hit by hostile scab drivers, but many passing motorists are friendly.

Members of the Jefferson Federation of Teachers have joined the picket line several times (the teachers recall that they were given use of the OCAW headquarters during their strike last year), and the United Teachers of New Orleans has backed the strike.

The company has imported scab labor from its unorganized offshore oil operations and from out-of-state Chevron plants. Despite this, plant output is well below capacity.

"They can't possibly run the plant at capacity without us," says Kelly Lambert.

The strikebreaking workforce is inexperienced and works exhausting twelve-hour shifts. Many have never run the equipment before. So accidents are frequent. One strikebreaker lost part of his hand already.

This refinery is designed to produce lubricant oil additives, and some very dangerous chemicals are used in the production process, Lambert explained. So the work is especially hazardous.

If there is an accident an explosion could release large amounts of hydrogen sulfide gas into the air, endangering the surrounding community.

"How many people are the companies willing to see injured before they come to terms?" Lambert asks.

AS WE GO TO PRESS

Robert Goss, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, announced March 17 that "an adequate settlement" had been reached with Gulf Oil, and that this is "expected to set a pattern" for settlements with the other major oil companies.

The new contract offer reportedly calls for first year wage increases of fifty-two cents an hour in addition to the 5 percent already in the contract. The second year increase would be 10.5 percent. The company would also raise its payments to the workers' health plan, and begin paying toward dental coverage.

The offer must still be voted on by the union membership before the strike, now eleven weeks old, can end.

Workers on the local level have been incensed by the oil companies' hard-line union-busting tactics during the strike. This accounts for the March 18 vote by 2,000 workers at Gulf's Port Arthur, Texas, refinery not to discuss the new contract terms until there is agreement that no reprisals be taken against any of the union members. Gulf has threatened twenty-four workers there with disciplinary action.

Similar votes are expected elsewhere.

Steel pact announced at Newport News

By Jon Hillson

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—After four months of negotiations and nearly four years of organizing battles, United Steelworkers Local 8888 is a big step closer to victory at Newport News shipyard. The Steelworkers and Tenneco, owner of the yard, reached agreement on a tentative contract March 13.

The announcement of the agreement came six days after 9,000 Steelworkers turned out in union meetings to show their determination to win a decent contract.

Details of the agreement will be given to Local 8888 members at a union meeting on March 23. They will be provided with copies of the contract and will vote on it by secret ballot several days later.

The announcement made an immediate and widespread impact in the shipyard. Expressions of optimism and a sense that the long, bitter fight was nearing an end were common. Steelworkers looked forward to seeing and discussing the contract. More than a few workers, as well, took a "wait and see" attitude.

The impact was felt outside the shipyard as well.

"People were elated where I work," a welder at an unorganized plant in Newport News told the *Militant*. "The idea was that Tenneco would stall forever, that the company would never agree to anything. People were inspired."

Tenneco fought a war against the

Steelworkers from the day the organizing drive began in 1976. The oil-rich owners of the biggest private workplace in Virginia spared no expense in trying to bust the Steelworkers.

They used the media, anti-union "right to work" laws, local politicians, the courts, and the cops, who rioted against Local 8888's picket lines and tried to storm the union's headquarters last April during the workers' eighty-two-day strike for recognition.

The Steelworkers prevailed through it all, including initial company stonewalling at the bargaining table.

The next step is the union membership's study and discussion of the product of the negotiations, and then voting on the contract.

Radioactive gas perils residents

Three Mile Island: the horror continues

By Nancy Cole

Advocates of nuclear power like to point out how nobody died at Three Mile Island. Yet.

But for people living near the nuclear plant in Middletown, Pennsylvania, the accident is far from over.

Metropolitan Edison, owner of the generating plant, began venting radioactive krypton gas into the atmosphere March 10 in its first major effort to "clean up" the crippled Unit 2 reactor.

It was an escalation of the horror residents of the Harrisburg metropolitan area have faced since the Three Mile Island reactor narrowly averted a catastrophic core meltdown just one year ago.

The March 10-12 krypton releases were small, Met Ed claimed, intended only to clear the passageway into the building so technicians could enter.

Now the utility wants to move full speed ahead to shoot all 53,000 curies of the pent-up radioactive krypton into the atmosphere.

The NRC has tentatively agreed and has set a mid-April starting date—after the perfunctory period for public comment has passed.

Inside the reactor building, this amount of krypton would subject a person to 300 millirems of radiation per hour. (Normal background radiation is 100 millirems per year.) But released into the air, the NRC contends, it would pose no danger.

Residents believe otherwise—a point the NRC is candid about ignoring. "The staff is fully aware of the public sentiment against the planned or accidental release of any further radioactive materials from TMI-2, regardless of the dose consequences," said reactor regulation chief Harold Denton.

Besides the krypton there are also 600,000 gallons of radioactive water

that Met Ed wants to let loose on the environment.

General Public Utilities, Met Ed's parent company, inadvertently admitted the time-bomb nature of nuclear power in urging the NRC to quickly approve its TMI clean-up scheme.

GPU President Herman Dieckamp wrote the NRC that the reactor core might go "critical" again at any time. This could result in the release of large quantities of radioactive materials, which "would greatly increase the radiation dose to workers involved in the cleanup and recovery of the plant and potentially result in additional off-site releases of radiation," he said.

What Dieckamp did not address, pointed out Harrisburg *Patriot* reporter Richard Roberts, was that "the ultimate, although highly unlikely, threat of the resumption of fission inside the reactor would be a meltdown of the core."

Dieckamp posed other chilling consequences. The reactor is susceptible to leaks, he said, which "could pose some increment of risk for further core damage and would definitely increase the volume of radioactive water to be cleaned up. . . ."

An NRC report on the cleanup echoed the possibility of the core re-attaining "criticality."

The report noted that there is only one instrument still in operation that can monitor the status of the core. If that goes, there will be no way to tell if the core is going critical again!

The reactor containment building is being maintained at below-atmosphere pressure by five fan coolers. They have been going steady since the accident last year, but they were not designed to go so long without maintenance. If they fail, pressure will increase and the krypton gas will seep out uncontrollably.

The 600,000 gallons of radioactive water may also contaminate the auxiliary building, the report said.

The aim of these disclosures by GPU and the NRC is to make a case for dumping an environmental impact statement on the cleanup which has yet to be completed.

"You can't sit around here and calculate environmental impact while we have a disaster waiting to happen in central Pennsylvania," said NRC Commissioner Joseph Hendrie.

The NRC's Harold Denton said later,

"The longer we wait, the more people get edgy."

That's the nub of it. While the dangers the NRC and GPU pose are very real ones, the reason for the rush is their hope that a revolt from the surrounding population can be avoided.

So the choice for Harrisburg residents (if in fact they were allowed to make one) is whether to pick the time to be radiated, or face a new nuclear accident of undetermined scope.

March 28 actions planned

A recently released poll of households in the area around the Three Mile Island nuclear plant found 76.8 percent opposed to restarting the damaged Unit 2 reactor. An only slightly smaller 72.4 percent also opposed reactivating the undamaged Unit 1.

A 77.3 percent majority said they believe the nuclear plant is still dangerous, and 77.7 percent said it is dangerous to live near any nuclear power plant.

It is little wonder that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which consistently mouths the same lies as Metropolitan Edison, has given up hope of convincing Harrisburg residents that the government agency acts in their best interests.

So the NRC doesn't even try to camouflage its intention to go ahead and "clean up" the plant in any way it sees fit no matter what local residents may say.

It's important for the people of Harrisburg, as well as for millions more, that opponents of nuclear

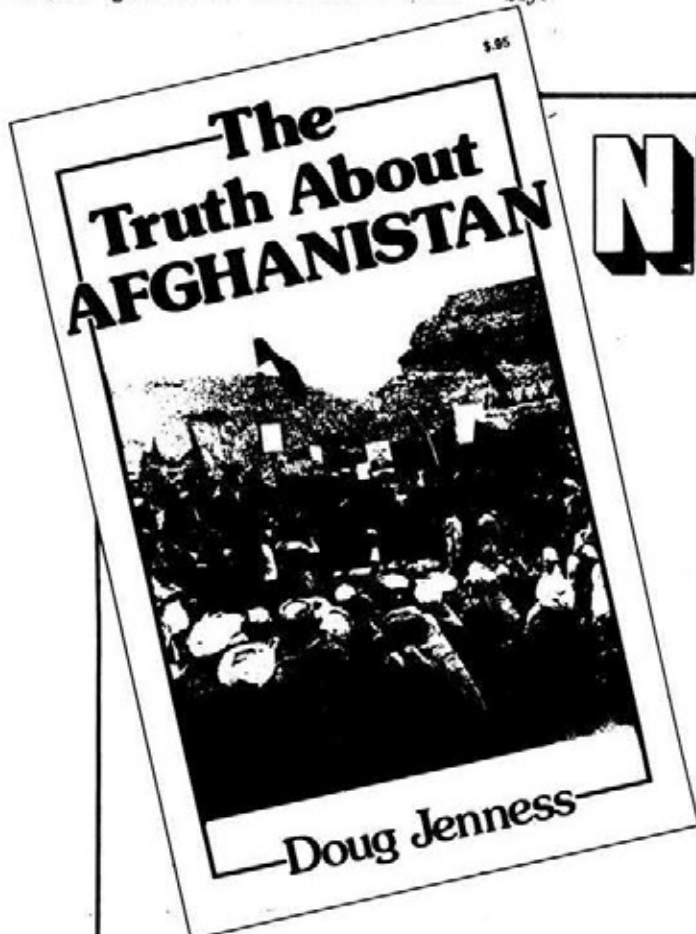
power make it clear to the NRC, Met Ed, Carter and Congress that this will not be tolerated.

On March 28, antinuclear groups in more than thirty cities across the country—and in London and Windsor, Ontario—will mark the first anniversary of the Three Mile Island disaster with protests.

The most varied activities will occur in the Harrisburg area where the scenario will begin at 4 a.m. on March 28 with a vigil near the plant. This will be followed by an interfaith service, a candlelight march, and a nationally televised debate. On March 29 there will be a rally at the capitol.

These activities across the country will lead up to a national antinuclear march on Washington on April 26.

For more information contact the March 28 Coalition, 1037 Maclay Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103, telephone (717) 233-6853 or the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World, 236 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, telephone (202) 544-5228.



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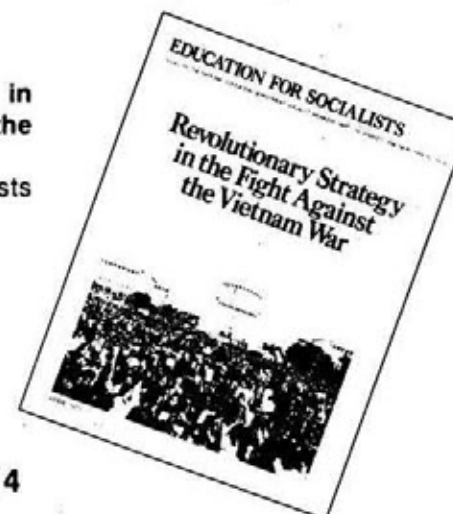


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La. cops, judge try to railroad Iranians

By Rich Gollub
and John Linder

MONROE, La.—The trial of forty-eight Iranian students opened here March 14.

The students were arrested at Northeast Louisiana University March 6 following a speech by Fereydoon Hoveyda, former Iranian ambassador to the United Nations under the shah's regime.

When the students attempted to ask questions, university officials closed the meeting. As the Iranians left the campus, the police began a roundup.

"They were singled out as Iranians and arrested," said defense attorney Marion Overton White. "Apparently the officers were trying to get fifty to equal the number of U.S. hostages in Iran." The police arrested a Palestinian and several other non-Iranians in trying to meet this quota. They were released as soon as police determined their nationality.

"The first question they asked of the people who had been arrested was, 'Are you Iranian?'" stated Mohamad Majahed, a spokesman for the forty-eight. "If the answer was yes, you had to go to jail. If not, you could leave."

The students were charged with trespassing. After their arrest, they began a hunger strike. Some required hospitalization. Although too weak to stand, they were shackled in leg irons with three armed guards at the door.

Iranian charge d'affaires Ali Asghar Agah, visited the students: "Our students suffered the past seven days tremendously. They don't even know why they were arrested, or what are the exact charges."

As criticism of the racist arrests

grew, the students were bailed out by an anonymous donor on March 13, after Judge Lolley suddenly cut their bail in half. Lolley had previously refused demands for reduced bail. The students have no idea where the bail money came from.

On March 14 the students assembled in front of the courthouse before the trial opened and chanted slogans in support of the Iranian revolution.

Minutes later, Judge Lolley issued an unprecedented order barring the defendants and the public from the trial. He also ordered separate trials

for each defendant.

Local lawyers interviewed by the *Militant* agreed that the order was not only unprecedented but unconstitutional. "It not only violates the rights of the defendants," said Monroe Attorney David Duhon. "It also violates the rights of the citizens of this state to view all court proceedings. It is more akin to a medieval star chamber than the court process as the constitution says it should be conducted."

Barred from the hearing, the defendants left the courthouse. At 10:30 a.m. Lolley began calling the defendants

individually to appear as witnesses. When they did not, he issued warrants for their arrest, setting bail at \$350.

He ended the day with a news conference, an unusual move for a judge during a trial.

Many people in the area are becoming outraged at the way the trial of the Iranians is being conducted. Richard A. Bailly, another Monroe attorney, told the *Militant*, "A lot of people in this town are very disturbed about it. They may be politically conservative, but they're upset about what's going on in the court."



Iranian students demonstrate outside Monroe, Louisiana, courthouse.

Iranians: 'Long live Black Americans!'

By Martha Pettit

LAWRENCE, Kans.—Muriel Paul is a Black woman who went to Iran in December with an independent fact-finding delegation. While in Iran, Paul told the *Militant*, she found overwhelming sympathy for the Black movement in the United States. "There had just been a TV special on Martin Luther King," she said, "and before that, the 'Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman.'"

"When I found that they had just translated *Roots* into Farsi, it almost brought tears to my eyes—that Iranians had gone to that much trouble to

inform the people about the oppression of Black Americans."

When the delegation visited the U.S. Embassy, some thirty stood outside the gate chanting, "Long live Black Americans!"

"Well, that's not usually what people say when I go places!" Paul said. "I feel that I had to go to Iran to feel for the first time that I was a first-class American."

In Iran, the delegation met with families who told how they and their relatives had been tortured under the shah's dictatorship. "You go to visit any Iranian family," she explained,

"and they will show you albums upon albums which detail all these tortures."

"Nothing is too grisly for them to record because it reminds them of what they were fighting for and how much was sacrificed in the fight against the shah."

The delegation went to a screening prison of SAVAK, the shah's secret police. Paul explained that some of the cells where people were tortured had been so covered with blood that SAVAK had wallpapered them to disguise it when the Red Cross was sent there in 1977.

"They felt that was the quickest way to get rid of the evidence," Paul explained, "rather than to scrub all that stuff off."

"Since the revolution people have come by and pulled the wallpaper off, revealing the blood underneath."

Paul also mentioned that the prison is directly across from the foreign ministry, so the shah obviously had direct access to knowledge of these crimes.

Paul said that in her view the Iranians are fighting for freedom to practice their religion and "also for the overthrow of imperialism: the overthrow of United States interests and self-determination as a nation." She strongly opposes U.S. military intervention and believes that the shah should be sent back to stand trial.

Paul explained that she had gone to Iran to find out the facts on Iran for herself and to "forge a closer alliance between the Iranian and American people."

"Black Americans," she said, "have always had to pay a heavy price for their involvement with foreign affairs: Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Malcolm X—I think it was no accident that he was assassinated right after he returned from his trip to Africa and the Moslem nations—and Martin Luther King. And we can also add Paul Robeson to that list."

Paul firmly believes that "this fact should be nothing short of a mandate

for Black Americans to get involved in foreign affairs."

Support grows for HKE prisoners

In the last week, important new support has been won for the two women socialists imprisoned in Iran, Mahsa Hashemi and Fatima Fallahi. Both are members of the Iranian Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) and longtime activists in the fight against U.S. imperialism.

The appeal is being circulated among supporters of the Iranian revolution. Among new signers are clergymen who have been particularly outspoken against the crimes of the shah. They include Dr. William P. Davis, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Rev. William J. Stafford of Atlanta, a participant in the November 16 National Black Pastors Conference in Detroit that unanimously called for the extradition of the shah; and Rev. Dr. William B. Cate, director, Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Other new signers include Gene Guerrero, executive director, Atlanta American Civil Liberties Union; Duma Ndlovu, steering committee, Black Consciousness Movement of South Africa; Sheila Ryan, chairperson, Palestine Solidarity Committee; Elias Ayoub, Palestinian activist facing deportation from the U.S. for his political views; Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, New York City Councilman from the South Bronx and strong advocate of Puerto Rican independence; and Karen Valenzuela, director, Associated Students of the University of Washington Women's Commission.

Telegrams should be sent to president Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Tehran, Iran, with copies to the *Militant*, 14 Charles Lane, NY, NY 10014.

Why big business hates Iran

By Janice Lynn

The February 23, 1980, issue of the *Economist*, one of the major mouthpieces of big business in Britain, indicates what capitalists around the world are so worried about in Iran.

Analyzing Iran one year after the revolution, the *Economist* points to what it terms the "chaos created in industry by workers seeking to run their own factories."

The *Economist* bemoans the fact that the workers "in the factories interfere in the management of plants and elect workers' councils to run them." The financial weekly is upset at the "Islamic militancy [that] incites factory workers against their capitalist masters. . . ."

What especially raises the *Economist's* ire is the "new Islamic economics"—that is, "a worker's right to the fruits of his own labour and to the means of production."

The *Economist* laments the nationalizations of private sector enterprises, the measures taken by workers to prevent close-downs and layoffs, their arrests of industrial-

ists, and their "discipline" of managers.

It objects to the "heady air of participatory mass politics" in Iran today, stating:

... the revolution has released powerful, and potentially disruptive, aspirations. It has spawned a plethora of political parties, interest groups and ideological schools that are locked in conflict. It has lit a blaze of revolutionary ferment that cannot be easily extinguished.

This is what frightens the capitalists. Under the old regime of the shah, they did not have to worry about the masses becoming involved in the political process. Since the revolution, the *Economist* complains, "the parties of the extreme left have fared better than the parties of the centre."

The capitalists are very much aware of the class polarization in Iran today. And, as the *Economist* warns, the bourgeois forces are at "a distinct disadvantage when the street crowd has become a lever in the political process."

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

March for ERA in Chicago, May 10!

Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, is calling upon all supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment to build and participate in the National March for ERA Ratification in Chicago, Saturday, May 10.

In NOW's call for the action, Smeal refers to it as "a spectacular event that will stir the emotions of all who value human dignity and equal justice under the law."

Like NOW's historic July 9, 1978, march on Washington for extension of the ERA ratification deadline, the May 10 action will be made up of contingents of unions, churches, students, civil rights organizations, and others, as well as individual participants.

Marchers will assemble at 9:30 a.m. on

Columbus Drive between Monroe and Jackson streets. The march will move south on Columbus Drive to the Old Band Shell Area (Roosevelt Drive end of Grant Park) for a rally.

The May 10 march will culminate a series of spring actions for ERA ratification in Illinois. On April 23 students from throughout the area will rally on the steps of the capitol building in Springfield. Buses are being organized from major campuses in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana.

On April 26 the Illinois Labor Conference for ERA will be held at the Plumbers Union Hall in Chicago. Conference conveners include: Robert Gibson, president of the Illinois State AFL-CIO; Robert Johnston, direc-

tor of Region 4, United Auto Workers; William Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor; Muriel Tuteur, president of the Chicago Coalition of Labor Union Women; Kenneth Dawes, president of District 12, United Mine Workers; and Louis Peick, president of Joint Council 26, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

For more information on May 10 and April 23 contact: ERA Ratification Project, 18 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 110, Chicago, Illinois 60603. Telephone (312) 782-7205.

For the labor conference contact: Illinois State Federation of Labor, 300 North State Street, Sixteenth Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60610. Telephone (312) 222-1414.

Thousands of women rally in Nicaragua

By Lorraine Thiebaud

MANAGUA—Celebrating International Women's Day for the first time in a country free from tyranny, thousands of Nicaraguan women marched through the streets of this city March 9. The demonstration was the culmination of a week of activities.

Women of all ages came from every corner of Nicaragua and marched in provincial contingents, frequently led by all-women militia units.

With raised fists they entered the Plaza of the Workers, shouting the main slogan of the women's movement here—"Building a new country, we build the new woman!"

Women's Week was inaugurated nationally by the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women (AMNLAE).

Special emphasis during the week's events was placed on the upcoming literacy campaign, which has such fundamental significance in improving the lives of Nicaraguan women. More than 60 percent of urban women and 90 percent of rural women can neither



Militant/Fred Halstead

Women fought to overthrow Somoza. Now they are active in rebuilding Nicaragua.

read nor write their own names. Illiterate women in every city and town organized meetings to honor the mothers of the teenaged men and women who will live in the countryside for six months, working in literacy brigades. Front-page coverage in *Barricada*,

the daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), was devoted to the many assemblies, panel discussions, and visits to factories, neighborhood committees, and high schools throughout the week.

A poetry, painting, and song compe-

tition was sponsored; prizes were awarded by guerrilla commander Dora Maria Tellez at a cultural event held in homage to Celia Sánchez, heroine of the Cuban revolution.

The highlight of women's week was the presentation by Gloria Carrión, secretary general of AMNLAE, of the Minimum Plan of Struggle for Women. At the March 9 demonstration, Carrión said women are demanding full participation in making all new laws and government policies, especially those relating to health, education, and food distribution.

The AMNLAE is emphasizing three priorities: full equality before the law; equal pay for equal work and equal opportunity to work; and revision and enforcement of laws regarding responsibility for paternity.

Tomás Borge, a commander of the revolution, spoke at the demonstration to express the commitment of the FSLN's National Directorate to women's liberation. "It is necessary now to make a new revolution, a women's revolution," Borge said.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

New opportunities in abortion rights struggle

By Cliff Conner

NEW YORK—The new stage of the fight for abortion rights and against the Hyde Amendment was the topic of a panel discussion at the Upper Manhattan Militant Forum on March 8, International Women's Day.

The Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress in 1976, prohibited the use of federal funds for abortions. Medicaid-financed abortions were outlawed; poor women, unable to afford medical treatment costing hundreds of dollars, were forced to choose between bearing unwanted children or seeking dangerous, illegal "back alley" abortions.

Recent lawsuits and court decisions have challenged the legality of the Hyde Amendment and have placed the issue on the Supreme Court docket.

Discussing this fight at the Militant Forum were Lourdes Soto, representing the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project, and Carla Horton of the New York National Organization for Women's reproductive rights committee. Barbara Mutnick, former staff member of the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition, spoke for the Socialist Workers Party.

The panelists welcomed the recent federal district court ruling that the Hyde Amendment is unconstitutional. The court ordered federal and state authorities to resume paying for abortions.

But this victory remains tentative. The upcoming Supreme Court hear-

ing could reestablish and reinforce the Hyde Amendment—or it could do away with it altogether. The panelists agreed that it will be necessary to focus public attention on this court case in order to bring political pressure to bear in favor of women's rights.

To this end, Carla Horton announced the formation of a speakers bureau by her NOW committee. It will address community organizations, church groups, schools, and any audience willing to discuss the issue.

Opinion polls, she noted, show clear majority support for women's rights and abortion rights, but somewhat less support for Medicaid-funded abortions.

But when she explained the necessity of defeating the Hyde Amendment to a church group, she said, eighteen out of the audience of twenty responded favorably. "Rights don't mean much if it takes money to use them and you don't have money," she stated.

Lourdes Soto provided the background to the lawsuit, which the ACLU played a key role in initiating.

"On October 1, 1976, the day the Hyde Amendment was to go into effect, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the ACLU, and Planned Parenthood filed a nationwide class action lawsuit—now known as *McRae v. Harris*—before federal district judge John Dooling and received a nationwide injunction preventing implementation of the Hyde Amendment.

"In June 1977, however, the Supreme Court lifted Judge Dooling's injunction

and sent the case back to him for reconsideration.

"So a trial was held that lasted more than a year.

"On January 15 of this year Judge Dooling issued his 600-page decision. He held that excluding abortions from the otherwise comprehensive Medicaid program violated First Amendment rights of freedom of conscience and Fifth Amendment rights of privacy, due process, and equal protection."

Soto pointed out that during the period that the Hyde Amendment was in effect federally funded abortions decreased by some 99 percent.

"There are no practical alternatives to Medicaid abortions for poor women. The financial costs are simply beyond their means.

"In 1976 the average cost of an abortion was \$280, while the average monthly welfare payment ("Aid to Families with Dependent Children") for a family of four was \$238.

"The defendants in this case—the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, along with some 'lawyers for unborn children'—asked for a stay of Judge Dooling's order pending appeal, but on February 19 the Supreme Court denied that motion. This was another victory for the pro-choice movement.

"But pressure—legal and political—must be kept up. The Supreme Court will hear the case during the last week in April and will most likely issue an opinion in June."

Barbara Mutnick noted that "the Hyde Amendment is the most openly discriminatory law—aimed against women—since the days of the Jim Crow laws that openly discriminated against Blacks."

Mutnick explained how the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion was won—"not by the wisdom and concern for abstract fairness on the part of Supreme Court justices, but by the political climate created by a massive social movement of women demanding our rights."

Mutnick pointed to a key difference between the political situation today and the period before the 1973 abortion rights victory: "The union movement has begun to throw its weight into the movement for women's rights. Many unions—including key industrial unions—have come out strongly in favor of the ERA.

"On the abortion rights issue, the unions have not been as prominent . . . yet. But that is exactly where a great potential force to get rid of the Hyde Amendment can be found.

"We saw the impact the United Steelworkers had when the Supreme Court threw out the Weber challenge to affirmative action. If the steelworkers, autoworkers, and miners unions, for example, all took a stand for full abortion rights, I think we could be much more confident that the Supreme Court would reach a just decision and get the Hyde Amendment off our backs."

Free Tommy Hines!

A gain for civil rights was registered when an Alabama appeals court reversed the conviction of Tommy Lee Hines, a mentally retarded Black man

who had been forced to "confess" raping a white woman.

The state court ruled March 18 that Hines was "incompetent to voluntarily give a confession because of his mental age."

The case against Hines was built around his "confession." Hines was convicted in 1978 in a racist trial which evoked widespread protests.

In May 1979, marchers in Decatur demanding justice for Hines were attacked by gun-wielding Klansmen. Two demonstrators and two KKKers were wounded.

Hines had been given a thirty-year sentence and later transferred from prison to a mental hospital. Two additional rape charges are pending against him and it is not yet known if local authorities will try to press these, or to seek a retrial on the voided conviction. Hines's attorney is seeking his immediate release.



1979 march in Decatur

Lawyers hit Klan murders

By Kate Daher

GREENSBORO, N.C.—The National Executive Committee of the National Lawyers Guild has passed a resolution condemning the assassination of five anti-Klan demonstrators here last November 3.

The guild resolution, adopted last month, also condemns police complicity with the killings and the subsequent cover-up by the news media and government authorities, who have sought to blame the demonstrators—members of the Communist Workers Party—for their own deaths.

The resolution calls for "vigorous prosecution" on murder charges of all the Klanners and Nazis involved, and for filing "a major civil rights suit" against the police.

Although the police admit that they had an informer planted among the killers, they made no move to stop the

slaughter. And they have arrested only fourteen of the approximately thirty-five Klan-Nazi thugs who participated in the massacre.

As a result of the National Lawyers Guild resolution, a number of legal professionals have stepped forward to help defend three CWP members who survived the shooting—Nelson Johnson, Willena Cannon, and Rand Manzella—who face prison for "resisting arrest" and other trumped-up charges.

The three are now scheduled to go on trial May 5.

Demands that charges against the three be dropped should be sent to: Mayor Jim Melvin, 210 North Greene, Greensboro, North Carolina 27402.

Copies should be sent to: Greensboro Justice Fund, 39 Bowery, Box 404, New York, New York 10002.

Fire fighters hail Black support

By Hattie McCutcheon

CHICAGO—Leaders of the fire fighters union addressed a major gathering of the Black community here March 15 to express their thanks for the support given them in their recent strike and to urge continuation of the labor-Black coalition that had been decisive in their victory.

Frank Muscare, president of the fire fighters, who had just been released from prison, appeared at the weekly meeting of Operation PUSH along with William Reddy, vice-president of the union, who led the strike while Muscare was in jail.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, leader of PUSH, had played a key role in helping to win the fire fighters' settlement.

The fire fighters had ended a twenty-three day strike March 8 after Mayor Jane Byrne capitulated on her vow never to grant a contract to the union and signed a "letter of agreement." The pact includes an affirmative-action program for hiring Blacks and Hispanics into the department, now mainly white.

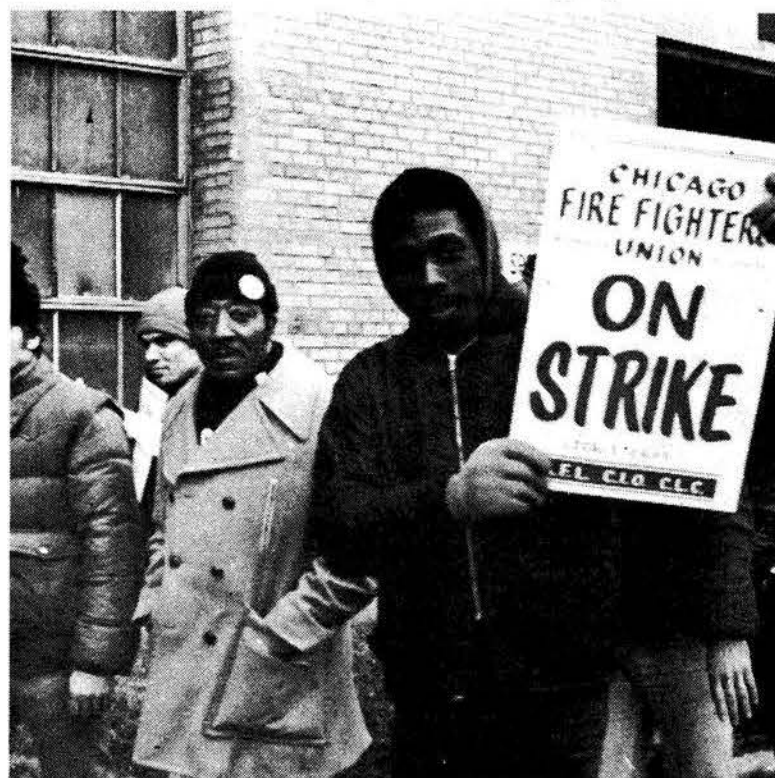
It also provides for the right to strike if unresolved issues are not settled by year's end.

Muscare and Reddy appeared at an overflow PUSH meeting where they shared the platform with Vice-president Walter Mondale and Coretta Scott King.

Muscare thanked "the people who helped us win the first union contract with the city for the fire fighters."

"It took a lot of people—Jesse, the community—backing us," he said, "and now we have to implement this contract which is going to take more unity than the fire fighters have by themselves."

Union vice president Reddy added: "We have a new coalition here and it's a coalition for change. It took all of you, everyone, to get this contract. We've got a good contract. All fire fighters—Black, white, brown and yellow—fought for this contract because they



Chicago demonstration in support of fire fighters

knew that without it we would continue to be plantation workers."

Reddy added that the agreement would "not only eliminate past discrimination, but it will provide the unity and cooperation that we will need to make a better fire department for the citizens of the city and for the community."

Some thirty fire fighters, mainly white, attended the PUSH meeting.

Several spoke with the *Militant*. Their morale was high, and they felt the union had won a big victory.

A young Black fire fighter said he thought that the solidarity between white and Black workers was greater than when the strike began. He felt the entire membership supported the affirmative-action clause won in the union agreement.

Union President Muscare was released on bail March 13 pending a court review of the five-month sentence he got for

refusing to order the strikers back to work. The city has agreed to cooperate in securing his full release.

A \$380,000 fine levied against the union for ignoring the back-to-work order has been reduced to \$60,000. The union is appealing for abolition of the fine.

Nine hundred union fire fighters struck the Kansas City fire department March 17 after the city refused to rehire forty two union members fired during a December work slowdown.

Local 42 of the International Association of Fire Fighters had accepted an agreement with the city earlier, contingent on the rehiring of those dismissed.

One unionist told reporters: "We made a commitment in December that if one man was fired, all men were fired."

Haitian 'detention center'?

By Bob Schwarz

MIAMI—Calling it "humanitarian aid," the Carter administration announced recently that it will build a detention center for Haitian refugees and give a relief grant of \$200,000 to the Haitians.

This tiny amount is supposed to cover emergency food, housing, and medical aid to more than 20,000 Haitian refugees in southern Florida.

The Haitians are seeking political asylum in the U.S. Current policy of the Immigration Service denies them asylum and work permits, and seeks to deport them.

The refusal of government officials to provide adequate funds to the Haitians who have fled Jean-Paul Duvalier's murderous dictatorship met with immediate condemnation from Miami Black community leaders.

"The Haitians are victims of discriminatory U.S. refugee policy," Dr. B. Carleton Bryant stated at a recent news conference. He noted that Cuban exiles receive political asylum and financial aid, and those who have recently fled Nicaragua

are given work permits. Haitians, on the other hand, are "maltreated, imprisoned, denied the right to work and denied the most fundamental human rights," Bryant charged.

The proposed detention center would centralize the arrest and processing of refugees who are presently jailed in several south Florida cities.

Government officials claim a central detention center would facilitate "aid." In fact, it would only facilitate the jailing of newly-arrived Haitians and make it easier to deport them.

A suit is now being heard in federal court to bar future deportations.

Thousands of Haitians have risked death to come here in leaking, overcrowded boats or paid hundreds of dollars to smugglers to escape the notorious political repression in Haiti.

But the U.S. government has denied them political asylum, calling the Haitians "economic refugees" who are fleeing the extreme poverty in Haiti. The government claims there is no political repression in Haiti.

Gov't guilty in fallout deaths

By Jim Garrison

A federal study group has urged the government to take responsibility for cancer among people living near nuclear test sites in Nevada.

According to Associated Press, the report, marked "sensitive" and "for official use only," says that "a small number of cases of death and disease" probably resulted from nuclear weapons testing. It is the first such government admission.

The report is in response to a year-long fight by 950 cancer victims and surviving family members from southern Utah, eastern Nevada, and northern Arizona. They charge government negligence in conducting nuclear tests that led to high cancer rates in the area. They have filed \$2 billion in claims against the Department of Energy.

Between 1951 and 1962, more than eighty atomic and hydrogen bombs were exploded in the atmosphere at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)'s test site in Nevada.

The official position of the government has always been

that the level of fallout from the test bombs was not sufficient to cause illness to residents nearby.

As early as 1955, two years after the beginning of nuclear tests nearby, the residents of St. George, Utah, had expressed their concern for their health and safety to the AEC, which replied that there was nothing to worry about.

According to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the AEC intervened in 1965 to suppress a Public Health Service report linking atomic testing with increased rates of leukemia near the test areas.

AEC General Manager Dwight Ink noted at the time that "the studies will pose potential problems to the commission: adverse public reaction, lawsuits, and jeopardizing the programs at the Nevada test site."

In light of this past experience with the U.S. military, it's small wonder the Carter administration is having a tough time selling its new multi-billion dollar MX missile project to the people of this

same region.

In a report about public hearings on construction of the MX missile system in Nevada and Utah, *New York Times* correspondent Molly Ivins noted "a distinct antimilitary attitude in the area because of the high incidence of cancer deaths."

Janet Gordon expressed the feelings of many residents when describing the death of her brother from cancer of the pancreas.

"He was twenty-seven when he died, he had it for five years and he finally starved to death because he could not eat," Gordon said at the hearings. "I'll never forget the agony my family went through. My mother had us all on our knees night after night, promising we'd live better lives if only he got well. . . ."

"When I think of the years of that pain, and all the time the military were telling us there was no danger—I've seen those government memos now from back then saying that after all only a very few would die. They lied to us. They wrote us off. We are not real people to them."

Should draft opponents back Kennedy?

By Fred Feldman

Many of those supporting the March 22 antidraft rally in Washington are looking for ways to express an anti-draft position in the elections.

There has been a marked increase over 1976 in the number of student volunteers in the primary campaigns of presidential hopefuls. A major beneficiary is Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Kennedy's claim to be a committed opponent of the draft rests on his January 28 speech at Georgetown University. "I oppose the peacetime draft, and I also oppose the president's plan for registration," Kennedy asserted.

He included an escape clause: "If registration and the draft were essential in a real emergency, there would be no dissent from me or most Americans."

So Kennedy is opposed to the draft unless it is "essential." Will it remain "unessential" for long if he lands in the White House?

At Georgetown, Kennedy called for strengthening "American naval and air forces" in the Persian Gulf area, "including carefully selected military facilities."

He declared the Zionist state of Israel to be "our most stable and dependable ally in the Middle East."

He stressed that Soviet troops are not the only "threat": "The greater threat [to regimes in the Persian Gulf region] is often internal subversion, not military aggression. Military aid is not enough."

In an interview published in the January 10 *New York Times*, Kennedy came out for increased arms spending, stressing the "beefing up of our conventional forces."

This is the same foreign policy which committed Washington to support the shah of Iran, Somoza in Nicaragua and a series of right-wing dictators in South Vietnam.

It is the same policy that requires support to the Zionist state of Israel against the Palestinian people, and to the corrupt Saudi monarchy against its increasingly restive population.

The draft is an inevitable part of this policy—as is the threat of new Vietnams and even nuclear war—because U.S. military force is the only ultimate

guarantee of the survival of these reactionary regimes.

Kennedy would turn to the draft when one of these regimes faced an "emergency," despite his 1980 promises, just as surely as Carter did in defiance of his own 1976 pledges as a candidate.

That is because the Republican and Democratic politicians—from Reagan, Bush, and Anderson to Carter, Kennedy, and Brown—defend the interests of capitalism. That means the interests of the oil companies and the other giant U.S. corporations, which control both parties.

A draftee army, a gigantic military establishment, and a policy of support-

ing the shahs of the world are required to defend the global investments and superprofit of these corporations.

During election campaigns, of course, capitalist candidates have flexibility—especially those out of power. Thus Kennedy tries to rope in votes by taking advantage of discontent inspired by capitalist foreign policy and its consequences for American working people. He also tries to bottle up opposition to austerity and militarization inside the parties of big business.

Once in office, Kennedy—like Carter—would take on the job of exacting the price the corporations demand of us for their war plans.

To effectively oppose the draft and

the militarization drive means turning away from the capitalist parties. It means looking instead to working people, the vast majority of our society.

Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party, campaign on a program that seeks to educate and mobilize the working people of this country to put an end to the capitalist war drive.

Pulley and Zimmermann campaign for the unions—the most powerful organizations that working people have—to throw themselves into the fight against the draft.

Some unions have taken steps in that direction, but all are hamstrung by the officialdom's policy of supporting the parties of the employers—the parties of war.

That is why the Pulley-Zimmermann ticket campaigns for the unions to break from these parties and form a labor party.

That would be a real peace party—a party that could reach out to women, Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, the unemployed, the aged, and the unorganized to battle against the draft, against cutbacks in spending for human needs, and against the bloated war budget.

Instead of arming brutal dictators like the shah and drafting young people to die for them, such a party could support the Iranians, the Nicaraguans, the Zimbabweans, and all the people of the world who are fighting for a better life.

The formation of such a party would be a big step toward eliminating the root of war and poverty—the capitalist system.

This perspective of independent labor political action in defense of the oppressed and exploited is advanced in 1980 by Pulley, Zimmermann, and SWP candidates across the country.

Unlike the millionaires and near-millionaires who suddenly appear as "friends of the working people" when election year rolls around, these candidates are working people. Their campaigns are financed by working people, and they are beholden to the corporations for nothing.

They deserve your support.



Zimmermann: Draft no gain for women's rights

Following are excerpts from a speech given by Matilde Zimmermann, vice-presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, during her recent campaign tour.

Carter didn't just propose to reinstitute registration as a step toward the draft—that would be horrible enough. He proposed to massively expand it, and he is trying to pass this off as some kind of victory for women's rights.

In fact he is trying to deal a blow to the women's movement and in particular to the Equal Rights Amendment. The draft has already been used as an excuse for state legislators in Virginia and Missouri to kill the ERA. And if Carter is not answered, the draft will be used to undercut popular support for women's rights.

That's why the May 10 national march in Chicago for the ERA, called by the National Organization for Women, is so important.

I'm sure many of you know individuals who tended to support the ERA, but now are having second thoughts about it because they hate the idea of women being drafted.

They are right to hate the idea of women being drafted, but wrong to pin the rap on the ERA. We don't even have the ERA and they are proposing to draft women!

There are some people who say they don't want a draft, but that if it is

instituted it should include women. I think they are wrong.

First of all, to talk about who should be drafted is to assume that we are going to lose this fight. I don't assume that. I think the forces exist in this country to defeat the draft.

But if the draft is instituted for any segment of society, then the job for all of us will be to eliminate it for that segment, not to try to expand it to others.

To say otherwise is like saying: "I oppose the death penalty. But now that some men have been executed, they ought to fry one of the six women on death row in the interests of women's rights."

I think the majority of women reject this approach. We are fighting for equal rights for all, not equal oppression.

And I don't think women will be fooled into believing that the road to women's equality is through the army. Its only purpose is to protect the interests of the big corporations. That means keeping women and all working people down—at home as well as abroad.

To say women should not be drafted to fight in a reactionary war—and that's the only kind on the Pentagon's agenda—has nothing to do with the backward idea that females are unfit for combat. Women have always fought, arms in hand when necessary, for what we believe in.

I returned a couple of weeks ago

from Nicaragua—a great and nearby example of how women can fight when justice is on their side. I talked to young women who commanded guerrilla fronts and who organized the insurrection against Somoza in the cities. At the time the dictator was thrown out, 30 percent of the Sandinista army was female, including at the level of command.

The Nicaraguans we talked to were excited about our antidraft movement.

They regarded the antidraft protesters as sisters and brothers. They said the only reason Washington wanted the draft was to fight against people like themselves.

During the anti-Vietnam War movement a popular slogan said that peace was "an idea whose time has come."

I think we should build a massive and powerful movement so that we can say, "The draft is an idea that has been voted down!"

SWP candidates build march

By Don Davis

ATLANTA—Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann found few Atlanta University students who disagreed with her antidraft position during a campaign stop at the beginning of March.

"We're the party campaigning against the draft," Zimmermann told students at the predominantly Black campus. "We think if the oil companies want a war, they should fight it themselves instead of sending us to fight."

After shaking hands and exchanging ideas with a few hundred students, Zimmermann reported that she met only two who supported the draft.

The draft was the main issue as well when Zimmermann joined Janice Prescott, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, in campaigning outside the Atlantic Steel plant.

Prescott, a member of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Lodge 1295, formally announced her candidacy at a March 4 news conference. She said she would spend the first three weeks of her campaign publicizing the March 22 national antidraft demonstration in Washington, D.C.

A report on Prescott's news conference by an NBC affiliate was the first mention of the antidraft march on Atlanta television.

NO MORE

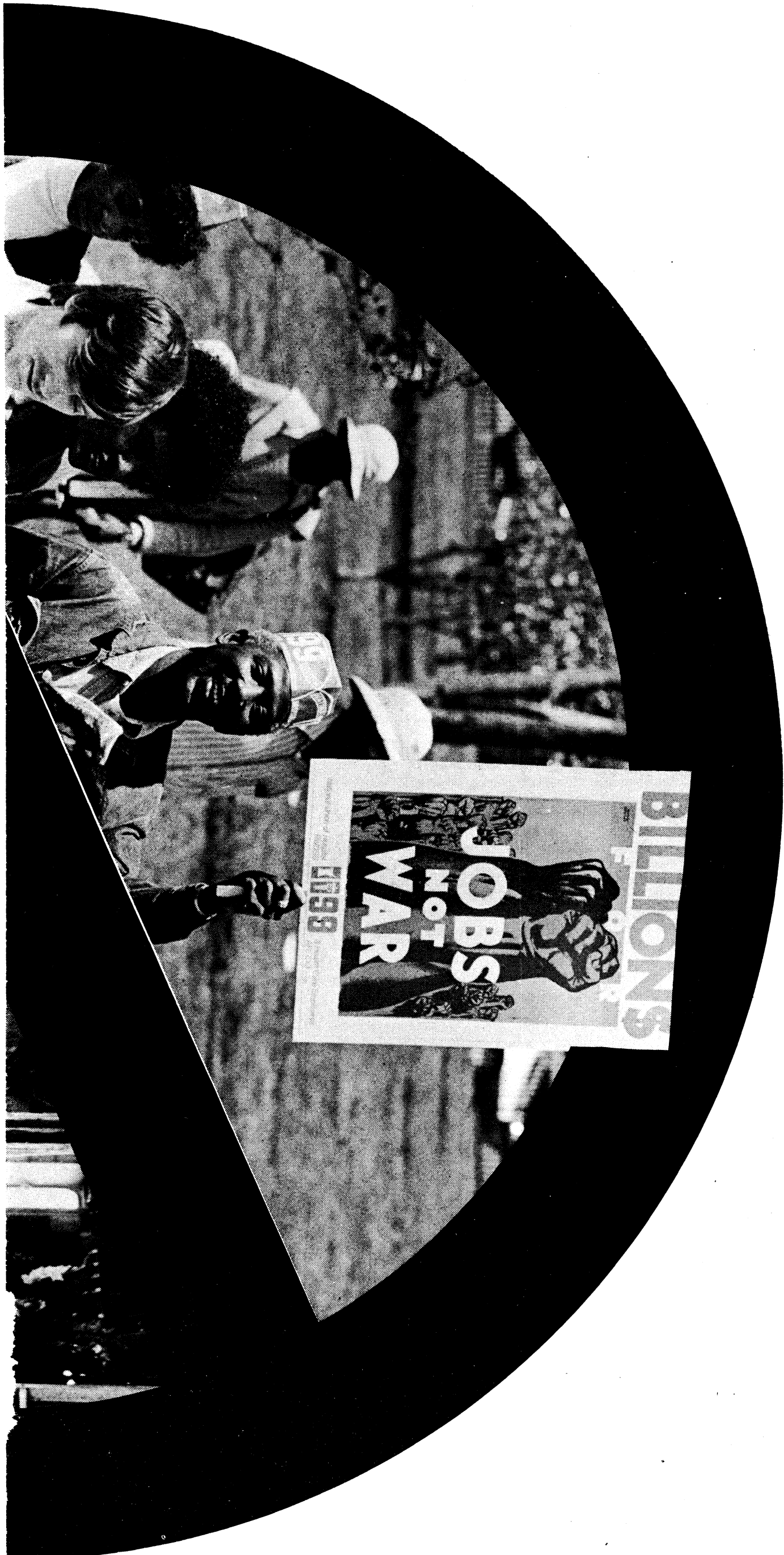


**We won't die for Exxon.
The fight for justice is at home.**

Vote Socialist Workers in '80. Andrew Pulley for president, Matilde Zimmermann for vice-president. 14 Charles Lane, N.Y., N.Y. 10014.

NO WOMEN

NO DRAFT!



YSA stresses union role

Young workers build antidraft movement

By Osborne Hart

Opposition to President Carter's draft registration proposal spread quickly among young people during the weeks following his announcement. So quickly that Carter was prompted just two weeks later to say America's youth had "overreacted."

The so-called "overreaction" reflects the sensible conclusion drawn by students and young workers: registration means the draft, and the draft means greater danger of war.

That view was expressed in such slogans as: "We won't fight for Exxon"; "No blood for oil"; and "No more Vietnams" at the outset of the antidraft movement. Draft-age people are saying: We won't fight and die for corporate profits.

These expressions represent a deeper understanding of the issues at stake than appeared among most of the participants in the anti-Vietnam War movement. And lessons of that movement are being applied.

Carter's registration proposal was met within weeks by a national call, from a coalition of students and antiwar activists, for the March 22 demonstration in Washington, D.C.

The antidraft movement struck a responsive chord among Black youth and in sections of the labor movement.

Prominent Black leaders endorsed March 22 and made public appeals for a large turnout from the Black community to protest the draft.

YSA activities

The Young Socialist Alliance, a revolutionary organization of young workers and students, actively participated in the various coalitions that organized building activities for the March 22 national demonstration. YSA members along with other antidraft activists in the high schools, on the college campuses, and in the unions organized buses, teach-ins, and rallies for the action.

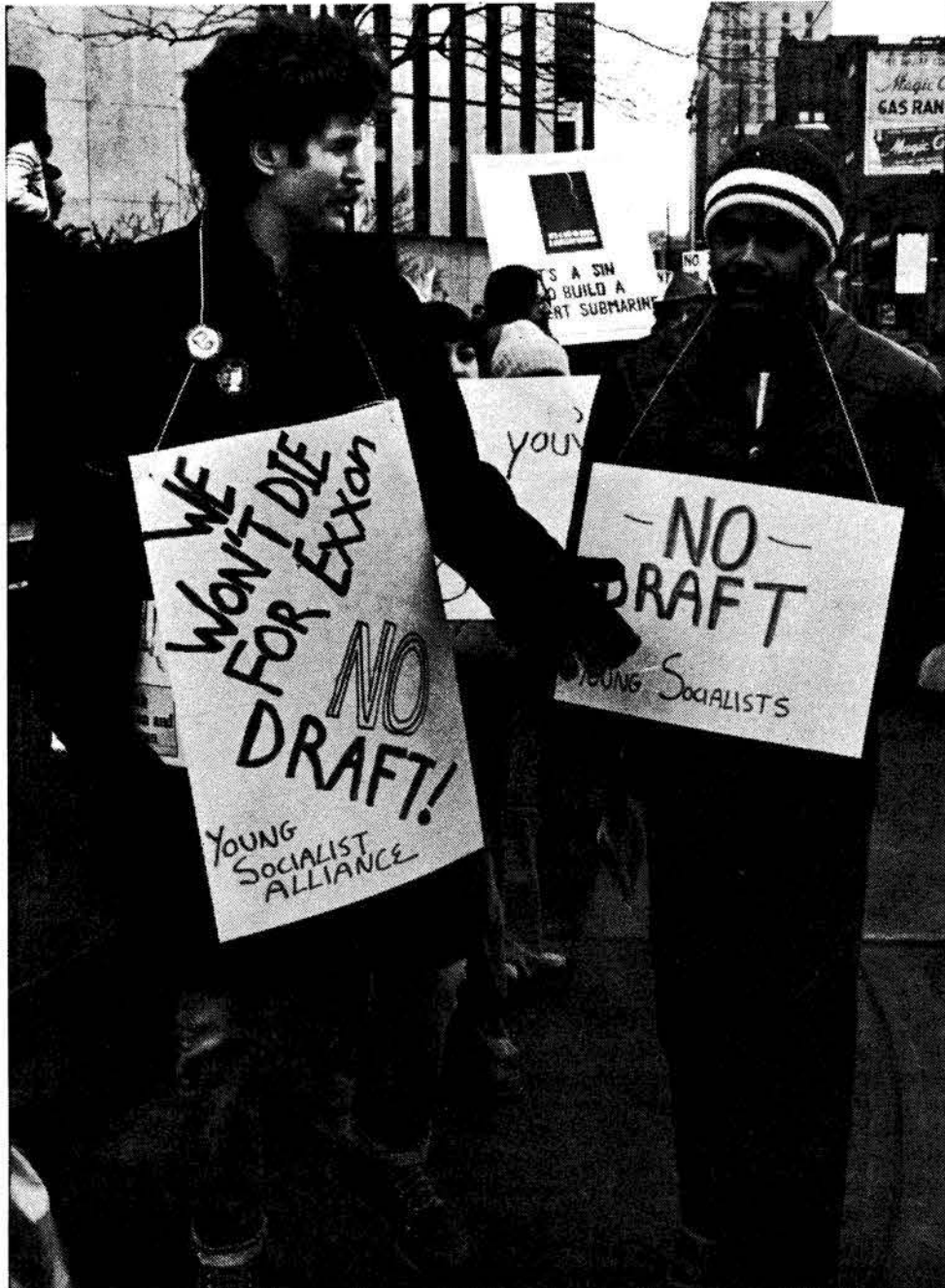
A major aspect of the YSA's antidraft work involved building March 22 among co-workers in the industrial unions, which most YSA members belong to.

That's because the YSA recognizes that industrial workers and their unions have the power to stop Carter's drive for militarization and austerity in its tracks. Workers are increasingly questioning, debating, and criticizing the foreign policies of the government. This process deepens as it becomes clear that the price of this policy is being taken out of the hides of working people.

The explosion of antidraft activities on campuses and elsewhere, and the calling of the March 22 demonstration, opened new opportunities to involve the unions in the struggle against Carter's registration plan.

Getting union support for March 22 has been seen as vital by many coalitions.

Despite the official prodraft stance of



Militant/Susie Beck

the majority of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, opposition is being voiced and resolutions against conscription are being heard throughout the labor movement.

San Diego Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) sent a letter signed by six union leaders soliciting support from area unions for their March 22 action. The letter stated in part: "Carter's proposal to begin registration cannot be isolated from the growing antilabor stance of the government and corporations. Our struggle as working people is to defend our standard of living at home, not to be drawn into new military adventures abroad." The letter urged unionists to participate in the demonstration. Chicago CARD sent out a similar letter to labor representatives.

The 150,000-member California Conference of the International Association of Machinists adopted a strong antidraft resolution recently. And IAM President William Winpisinger was one of two members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council who dissented from a prodraft resolution.

Members of the Machinists union will be speaking at three major West Coast antidraft demonstrations on March 23.

Antidraft resolutions

Several young workers who are members of the YSA related some of their experiences in building March 22 to the *Militant*.

Mark Rogers, a member of United Auto Workers Local 235 at Chevy Gear and Axle in Detroit, explained how an antidraft position was adopted by his local's youth committee.

"During the meeting, I made the motion for a discussion," Rogers said. "I proposed and motivated that the committee take a position against registration and the draft."

Rogers explained there was little opposition. After some discussion, the motion was adopted by a majority.

The previous day, a similar motion passed during a meeting of the political and legislative committee of UAW Region I Youth Council. Also, a debate on the draft is scheduled for the region headquarters.

"The important point is that issues such as the draft can be discussed and debated by union bodies," Rogers concluded.

Cleveland YSA member George Chammers reports that an emergency resolution opposing reinstitution of the draft was passed during the first meeting he attended of United Steelworkers Local 4333 at Cleveland Crane.

At the General Electric plant in Lynn, Massachusetts, YSA members are gathering signatures on an antidraft petition to present to their union—the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 201. The proposal includes a public debate on the draft. Two hundred co-workers have signed the petition.

Plant gates have been leafleted for March 22, and Lynn workers are organizing to fill a bus from GE.

Reba Williams-Dixon reports that members of UAW Local 664 at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York, are circulating an antidraft resolution and already have 300 signatures.

California IAM

A similar petition was circulated among auto workers at Ford's Metuchen assembly plant in New Jersey. More than 200 members of UAW Local 980 signed it. Although the resolution was voted down, the meeting stirred up interest in further discussions.

Joette Baity, a machinist at the McDonnell-Douglas plant in Torrance, California, says that everyone she has talked to opposes the draft. A report on the California Machinists resolution was given to her union local, IAM District 720.

The YSA members the *Militant* talked to report that the attitudes of workers on the draft varies. Older workers often go along with the draft registration proposals, while younger ones usually don't. The Vietnam experience is alluded to frequently, particularly among Blacks and Latinos who remember that the death rate for Blacks and Latinos during the war was disproportionately high. But almost everyone is willing to seriously consider the ideas of opponents of the draft. Changes of mind are common.

Paul Mailhot, national organizational secretary of the YSA, told the *Militant*, "The YSA knows the unions are decisive for the fight against the draft and the whole war drive."

Mailhot, who was won to socialism in the course of the anti-Vietnam War movement, has been working in the March 22 national mobilization office in Washington during the weeks leading up to the action.

"The labor endorsement and participation are far and away greater than during Vietnam," he remarked.

Mailhot explained that the "sentiment against the U.S. getting into a war is widespread throughout the population, and that includes in the unions too."

YSA wins free speech fight on Ala. campus

By Lee Smith

BIRMINGHAM—A threat to free speech mounted by right-wing opponents of antidraft activity on the University of Alabama campus here met defeat March 5 when the student government voted down a bill to ban the Young Socialist Alliance.

After unsuccessfully trying to disrupt an antidraft meeting of some sixty students February 12, a small group of right-wing students moved to ban the YSA.

Benny Bliss, a legislator in the Student Government Association (SGA), told the February 12 meeting he would like to see a revival of the House

UnAmerican Activities Committee to deal with groups like the YSA.

The following day Bliss introduced a bill to rescind the YSA's campus recognition, alleging the YSA had failed to abide by SGA guidelines for student groups.

When the bill came to the SGA floor a week after its introduction, the SGA voted to table it for two weeks. But it also voted to suspend the YSA in the meantime.

Alarmed by this attempt to ban a group because of its ideas, scores of students and faculty signed petitions opposing the move.

The February 25 issue of the student

paper, *Kaleidoscope*, carried a blistering attack on the SGA's action by editor Richard Powell. "I think those who would restrict free speech are the ones engaged in un-American activities," Powell wrote.

Powell's editorial was accompanied by a cartoon depicting the SGA as a thug, throttling the YSA.

A free speech meeting organized for the day before the SGA vote drew the Alabama Civil Liberties Union, the Baptist Student Union, Students for Greater Awareness (a Black student group), the Anthropology Club, the Kennedy campaign, and others.

Also attending were several faculty

members, an SGA legislator who pledged to vote against the bill, and Benny Bliss, who originated the bill.

A lively discussion took place for more than an hour. Not only was the YSA's case discussed, but students also criticized other restrictions on free speech, such as rules limiting the number of groups allowed to have tables in the concourse and rules against selling literature.

The following day the SGA defeated the bill to rescind the YSA's recognition by a vote of fifteen to six with two abstentions. One of those abstaining was Benny Bliss.

Mass. socialists set ambitious ballot drive

By Syd Stapleton

BOSTON—"I know that many workers across this state are frustrated and angry about having to think of the next four years in terms of Carter, Kennedy, Ford, Reagan, or Anderson," said Nelson Gonzalez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from Massachusetts Sixth Congressional District.

Gonzalez and other supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are in the final stages of preparing a drive that will give Massachusetts workers an alternative. Starting March 29 socialist campaigners will begin an ambitious effort to collect well over 40,000 signatures to put the campaign of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president, before Massachusetts voters.

Although Democrats and Republicans can get their names on the ballot as presidential candidates by fiat of the Secretary of State, the SWP and other "minority parties" have to collect at least 39,000 signatures of registered voters to get the names of their candidates printed on the ballot. Each signature then has to be checked by the town clerk of the town in which the signator lives.

Petitioning challenge

In spite of the magnitude of the challenge, the aim here is to collect the signatures in a three week drive, from March 29 to April 21. As part of the plans for the drive, two petitioning centers are being established, one in Boston and one in the Springfield/Amherst area in the western part of the state. Plans are being made for mobilizing socialist campaigners from adjoining areas.

"We are confident we can make it," Gonzalez told this reporter. "We have already gotten offers of help from many supporters of the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign who are not members of the SWP. We are taking all sorts of steps, from organizing child care to setting up a transportation pool, to make sure that everyone interested in helping us get on the ballot can take part in the drive."

Gonzalez, who works as a machine operator in General Electric's 14,000-employee plant in Lynn, Massachusetts, has been talking to his fellow workers about the issues in the campaign. "It's been easy for a lot of workers to understand that the Democrats and Republicans don't represent their interests. For example, my union, the IUE [International Union of Electrical Workers] issued a statement in the District here calling for nationalization of the oil companies as the answer to skyrocketing fuel prices and phony energy shortages.

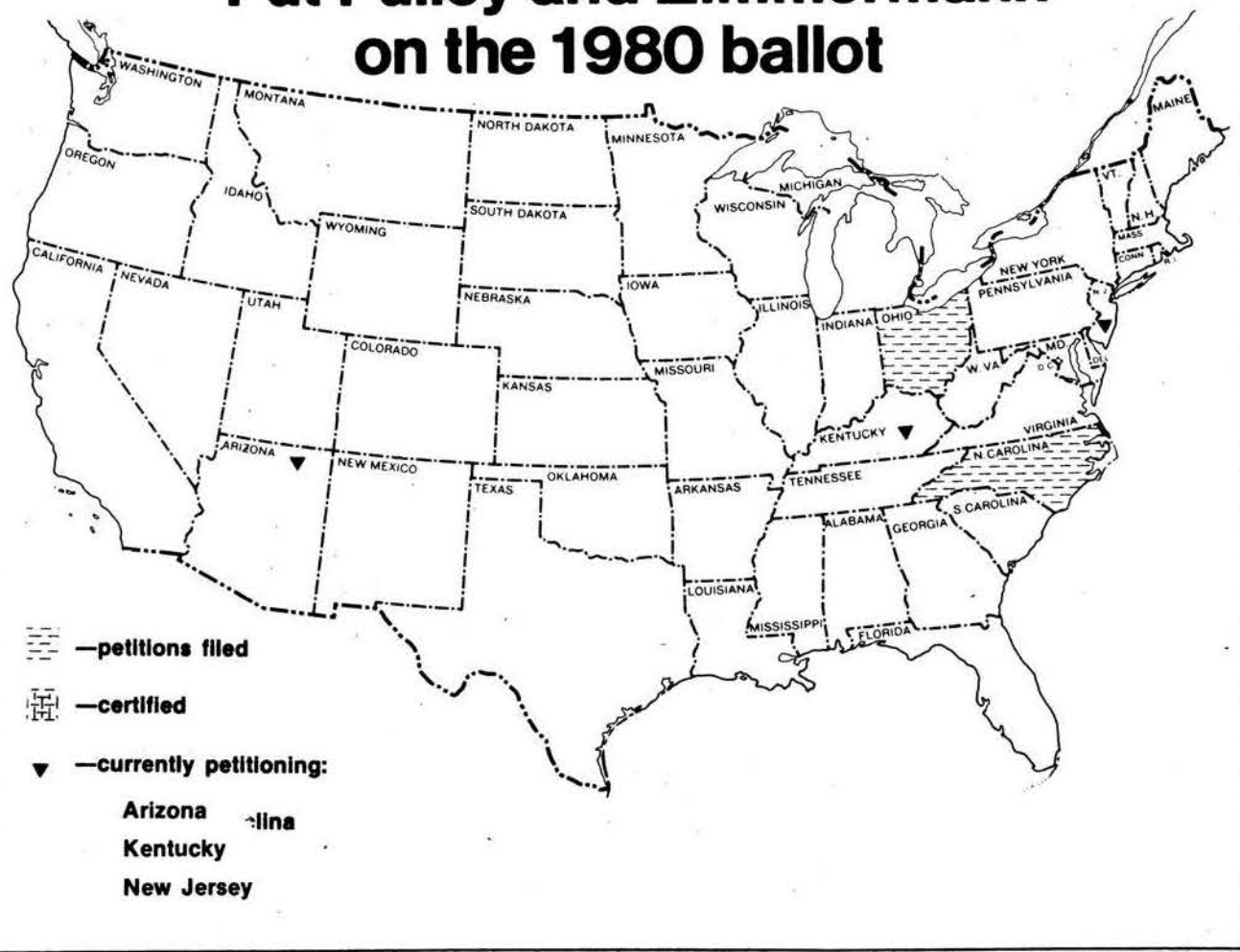
"But," Gonzalez pointed out, "not one of the so-called major candidates has come out in support of this demand.

"The reason is that every one of these candidates represents the interests of big oil and the other big corporations, not the great majority of us who have to work for a living.

"That's the reason why I and the other SWP candidates advocate the formation of a labor party based on the unions, the biggest and strongest organizations that working people have. That kind of party could give tremendous momentum to a campaign for nationalizing big oil.

"Another example of the gap between the candidates of the big business parties and workers here," Gonzalez continued, "is that in just a couple days antidraft activists at the General Electric plants

Put Pulley and Zimmermann on the 1980 ballot



here were able to get a couple hundred signatures on petitions opposing the draft. And the fact is that Pulley and Zimmermann are the only candidates who are campaigning against the drafting of young workers for any of Washington's war moves."

Energy ripoff

Massachusetts is a state that has been hit especially hard by double-digit inflation. Many working people and people on fixed incomes now pay as much as \$200 a month during the winter just for fuel oil to heat their homes and apartments. Oil prices have almost doubled since last winter, and the anger among the victims of this price gouging is evident all over the state. One example of this was the six-minute work stoppage held last fall by the United Auto Workers to protest high oil prices. The GM plant in Framingham, Massachusetts, was the only one in the country where workers walked out for an entire day over the issue.

As workers become more disgusted with the capitalist parties and have more reason to consider the socialist alternative to the capitalist politicians, the government tries to make it more difficult to get on the ballot. This year Gov. Edward King signed a law moving the petitioning period from the summer months to March and April.

"Because of the bad weather in March, we have delayed the start of petitioning until March 29," Gonzalez explained. "But one thing that makes it easier is the fact that many of our supporters are working in industrial jobs.

"Rail workers here will be able to take advantage of periodic layoffs to petition full time, and many workers at General Electric and Raytheon, where there are active campaign supporters, are on second

shift—making them available for daytime petitioning teams.

"We plan to work hard to expand our team of petitioners by winning new supporters to the Socialist Workers Party candidates," said Gonzalez. "In addition to the energy and inflation issues, there are other important questions in this state that are not addressed by the capitalist candidates."

"Many workers in Massachusetts," added Gonzalez, "are Black or Latino. They are subjected to brutal racist oppression, from out and out beatings and shootings, to school segregation, housing discrimination, and discrimination in employment and on the job. Right during the primary campaign a Black woman in Boston was viciously beaten by Boston cops while waiting for a bus. Although a local judge called for charges to be filed against the cops, not one of the so-called major candidates said a word in defense of this woman, or against this latest thread in a pattern of white racist violence in this state.

"In fact," Gonzalez charged, "Andrew Pulley was the only candidate for president who thought the shooting of Black high school student Daryl Williams was important enough to warrant coming to Boston to express his solidarity with protests against this attempted murder.

"And our candidates here are the only ones speaking out for busing as a means of accomplishing school desegregation here in Boston and around the country. You never hear a peep out of Senator Kennedy on this, for instance, even though this is one of the big issues facing the state. We hope our campaign will help expose Kennedy's fraudulent claim to represent working people right in his own stamping grounds."

No. Carolina SWP challenges unjust filing fee

By Lisa Potash

GREENSBORO, N.C.—The Socialist Workers Party filed suit here March 17 in federal district court to overturn a state requirement that all "third parties" attempting to gain ballot status pay five cents for each of the 10,000 or more signatures of registered voters required by state law.

To secure a place on the November ballot for its candidates, the SWP garnered more than 18,000 signatures from 99 out of 100 North Carolina counties, and is therefore required to pay more than \$900 to county election boards.

Counsel for the SWP is Irving Joiner, attorney for the Wilmington Ten defendant Ben Chavis. Joiner is also prominent in the civil rights movement in North Carolina.

The SWP campaign is supported by small donations from underpaid North Carolina working people and thus cannot pay \$900. It filed suit when Guilford and Forsyth county boards of elections refused to process signatures without payment of the fees.

A victory for the party in this court fight is in the interests of all those battling union busters and racists in North Carolina, scene of the murder of five anti-Klan demonstrators last November.

These election laws are designed to maintain the status quo of racism and anti-unionism and to make it harder for working people, small farmers, and the Black community to break from the stranglehold of the Democrats and Republicans.

SWP gubernatorial candidate Doug-

las Cooper explained, "This fee is undemocratic. It discriminates against small parties with limited funds. Already the SWP has had to spend substantial time and funds in order to collect the required 10,000 signatures of registered voters. We have overcome that obstacle to ballot status—one which is not required for the Democrats and Republicans. We should be placed on the ballot."

A growing list of supporters of the suit includes the chairperson of the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, Frank Goldsmith, and Charlotte Three defendant Jim Grant.

The SWP plans to win supporters from a broad spectrum of civil libertarians and other individuals and groups.

The filing was big news in the Wil-

mington, Greensboro, Lexington, Charlotte, and Winston-Salem media. Six articles have appeared on the suit over the past two weeks, and six television and radio stations have covered it.

The court is expected to set a date in the next week for a hearing at which a temporary injunction can be issued allowing county boards of elections to process the signatures without payment of the fee.

Cooper said that he is optimistic about winning. "A similar challenge brought by the SWP resulted in the overturn of the per signature fee in Florida in 1972. Most important, the tremendous response to our petitioning drive in January shows that the people of North Carolina want us on the ballot."

'Steelworker Tries for Capitol'

Daniel Rosenheim, *Hammond Times* business-labor editor, interviewed SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley while he was speaking in the Gary, Indiana, area.

Reported Rosenheim, "Pulley, who's on leave from his job [at U.S. Steel's Gary Works] until the fall, returned to the Calumet region this week from a campaign tour which has taken him in recent weeks to New Hampshire, North Carolina, Iowa, and Cuba.

"That's right, Cuba.

"I wish everyone from this country could visit Cuba to see what they've achieved," Pulley says.

"There are problems, of course, but it's a very open country which has full employment, no inflation, very low rents, socialized medical care and they've totally eliminated racism in the 20 years since their revolution. And things would be much better if the U.S. would end its trade embargo."

"If Cuba embodies some themes of Pulley's campaign, the former candidate for mayor of Chicago is hardly at a loss for words when it comes to this country.

"A lot of people in Chicago voted for Jane Byrne because they thought she represented the 'lesser evil' and, unlike myself, had a realistic chance to win," Pulley says.

"But ask the firefighters, the teachers, the students, the transit workers if they really won when Jane Byrne won."

"Working people do not have any representatives in government. The Democrats and Republicans represent

only big business. The labor movement needs to make a clean break with those two parties and form its own party."

The article goes on to summarize some of the key planks in the SWP platform.

Iron Range socialist in Congress race

In the early 1900s working people on the Iron Range in Minnesota elected socialist mayors. This year Ilona Gersh, the SWP congressional candidate from the Eighth district, is campaigning to revive that tradition.

Gersh is a member of the United Steelworkers Local 1938 and works at U.S. Steel's Minntac mine.

"While threats of war are coming from Washington, a real war is being waged at home," Gersh told the *Mesabi Daily News*, which ran a major story on her campaign announcement.

"It's a war against our standard of living. President Carter tells us that our standard of living is going down because we are being robbed by foreigners. That is not true. We are being robbed by the American corporations. They're the ones that are raising prices. They're the ones who are laying us off."

Gersh explained why workers need a new political party that is not a servant of the rich. She is campaigning for a labor party, based on the trade unions.

"More than 13,000 steelworkers were laid off last fall," said Gersh. "This country needs more steel production, not less. If these giant corporations say they are losing money and need federal welfare, they should

open up their books to the public and prove it."

Gersh, a NOW member, plans to campaign for the ERA and abortion rights. "It's shocking that countless Democratic and Republican administrations have failed to pass the ERA and still restrict women's right to control their own bodies."

Powers: 'Solidarity with Nicaragua'

As Washington's pressure and threats against Nicaragua intensify, Socialist Workers Party candidates around the United States are redoubling their efforts to get out the truth about that revolution and its meaning for U.S. workers and farmers. Among the most vocal have been those socialist candidates who were part of a fact-finding tour to Nicaragua last month.

For example, John Powers, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Ohio, has spoken at several meetings around the state, urging participation in the aid campaign for Nicaragua.

The February 25 *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, in an article headlined, "Socialist Worker candidate backs Nicaragua," reported, "The Socialist Workers party political campaign in Ohio will introduce a new issue to the state's voters, thanks to a trip its senatorial candidate recently made to Central America."

Powers explained in the interview that the Nicaraguan government has launched a campaign to wipe out illiteracy. Under U.S.-backed dictator Somoza, 50 percent of the Nicaraguan people could not

read or write.

"What they need is money, particularly for their literacy campaign," Powers told the *Plain Dealer*.

After months of stalling, the House of Representatives finally approved an "aid" package for Nicaragua. The bill, however, is nothing but an escalation of U.S. attempts to interfere in the affairs of the Nicaraguan people. The measure would halt payments if the Nicaraguan government gives aid to liberation struggles elsewhere in Central America, if Washington decides there is unacceptable influence by Cuba or the Soviet Union in Nicaragua, or if other conditions aren't satisfied.

Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann, who headed the fact-finding delegation, denounced this latest trick as "intolerable meddling in the affairs of Nicaragua."

SWP candidates who participated in the fact-finding trip to Nicaragua are available to speak before your organization or on your campus. To arrange a meeting contact: SWP Presidential Campaign, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone (212) 675-3820.

'Send buttons, leaflets, stickers'

In recent weeks the SWP Presidential Campaign Committee has been deluged with letters and requests for campaign literature.

Many come from young people who want to join with Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann to spread the word about the SWP

ticket. Campaign materials on the draft have been especially popular.

From New Paltz, New York, a supporter writes: "Would it be possible for an SWP representative to come to the campus to campaign for Pulley and Zimmermann? How can we help? Please rush stickers!"

From Orlando, Maine: "My group would like to know what we can do to support your party. Do you have buttons, etc. that we could distribute?"

From Eugene, Oregon: "I would like to work on the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign."

From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: "Please send 15 No Draft buttons."

From Cedar Falls, Iowa: "Send a bunch of No Draft buttons, posters and brochures."

From Florida: "I'm interested in purchasing campaign stickers, buttons, etc. I handed out campaign materials in '76 in my local area."

From Pasadena, Texas: "Will you send me 100 No Draft brochures."

As a result of the many requests for literature, and the expanding activities of socialist campaign committees around the country, we have had to place new orders for literature, buttons, and stickers. But our printers won't print for free.

Won't you act now to help make sure we can have enough literature on hand to respond to requests that are pouring in from all over the country? If you can make a contribution to the socialist campaign, clip the fund appeal coupon on this page.

—L. Paltrineri

SWP fund: challenging the giants

By Harry Ring

Little David vs. Goliath.

The image does come to mind when you consider our current efforts to raise \$50,000 for the Socialist Workers presidential campaign and compare it to the millions poured into the Democratic and Republican coffers.

But David did bring the biblical Goliath down, and in good time, we'll do the same with the capitalist one.

One reason is that a growing number of people are coming to recognize the need to do it. This is evident from the contributions we're receiving for the campaign fund and the notes that often accompany them.

An Air Force sergeant sends a \$30 contribution to the campaign and writes: "Request that you send a catalog that I would be able to order literature from."

From a woman in San Antonio comes \$10 for a *Young Socialist* subscription, campaign literature and buttons, and the balance a contribution.

She writes: "Although I do not wish to join your organization, I do support your opposition to the draft and your right to express that opposition."

"I also appreciate the fact that a Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate provides a real opportunity to make alternative political choices."

Christopher Townsend, of Gulfport, Florida, sends \$2 for a subscription to the *Young Socialist* and asks that his name be added to the list of

Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann. Responding to the coupon request for information as to "union/school/organization," he responds: "I wish I was a union member!!!"

From a longtime friend in Chicago comes a note enclosing a check for the campaign and requesting information about subscribing to various French-language publications of the world Trotskyist movement.

The check was for \$750.

Can many Pulley-Zimmermann supporters match that sum? Probably not. But if we all do the best we can, we'll make that important \$50,000 goal. Send your contribution today. Thanks.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Union/School/Org. _____

Make checks payable to:
Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee
14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

A federal court ruling allows us not to disclose the names of contributors in order to protect their First Amendment rights.



Pulley hails Zimbabwe freedom fight

The following message from Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, to Robert Mugabe, newly elected prime minister of Zimbabwe, was released by the Socialist Workers Presidential Campaign Committee.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe
Salisbury, Zimbabwe

Dear Brother Mugabe,

I am writing to express my full solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe in their determination to carry forward the fight for national liberation and social justice. The sweeping victory won by the Patriotic Front forces in the elections emphatically demonstrates the combativity and determination of the Zimbabwean toilers to rid their country of rule by the white-settler regime, and to win their fight for land, for education, health care, and an improvement in their standard of living.

This struggle has been and continues to be an inspiration to peoples of color, to workers, to the oppressed and exploited throughout the world.

The imperialist powers, including the government of the United States, have mobilized vast resources to block the Zimbabwe liberation struggle. For years they covertly backed the Rhodesian regime in its bloody war against the Black population of Zimbabwe. Unable to win that war, they were



PULLEY

MUGABE

forced to schedule elections, through which they hoped to install a compliant regime. But their attempts to subvert the elections, through the use of harassment and intimidation, did not produce the result they wanted.

Now, although the imperialists in Washington, London, and Pretoria say that they accept the results of the elections—what arrogance—they are at this very moment looking for ways to bring economic and political pressure on your government, to divide and demobilize the Zimbabwean people, and even to intervene militarily to maintain their grip on the wealth of your country.

The most immediate threat of military intervention comes from the hated apartheid regime in South Africa, which still maintains hundreds of troops in your country, against the will of the majority of Zimbabweans. South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha has ominously warned that if your new government does anything to undermine the apartheid regime's "security," Zimbabwe will "face the full force of the Republic's strength." Pretoria, and its allies in London and Washington, are well aware that the struggle in Zimbabwe has been an inspiration to the toilers in Namibia and inside South Africa itself.

The tide of history is running against the exploiters all over the world. The revolutions in Nicaragua, in Iran, and in Afghanistan have shown anew that the workers and exploited farmers can fight against imperialism and win.

In this country, the sympathies of Black people, workers, and youth are with the Zimbabwean people. Working people here are opposed to any new imperialist adventures, as the massive opposition to drafting young people has made clear.

As an Afro-American, as a member of the Steelworkers union, and as the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, I pledge to do everything possible to promote solidarity with the Zimbabwean people in the struggles that lie ahead.

In Solidarity,
Andrew Pulley

SWP candidate debates Democrat

By Ann Page

ST. PAUL—Energy and taxes were the main topics of discussion in a March 9 debate between mayoral candidates here.

The debate, which was moderated by the League of Women Voters and sponsored by the Macalester College chapter of the Minnesota Public Interest Group, resulted from a challenge by

Socialist Workers Party candidate Libby Moser to incumbent Democrat George Latimer.

In the debate, Latimer pointed to the "energy mobilization" he organized last month as a realistic solution to the energy crisis. Some 2,500 city employees and volunteers canvassed neighborhoods, distributing literature on how to caulk windows, weatherstrip

houses, and take similar measures.

Moser, an assembly line worker at Ford Motor Company, attacked this "solution" as a cover for the cutbacks and high prices that are being imposed on working people to increase oil company profits. "They try to make the individual responsible: Why haven't you weatherstripped or whatever?"

"America's working people are being held hostage by the oil companies," said Moser. She favored nationalizing the big oil firms, since "their hunger for profits is at the root of the problem."

Moser proposed opening the books of Northern States Power, the Twin Cities' big utility, so that the public can have a look at their real profits, priorities, and resources.

Moser called for shutting down the Prairie Island and Monticello nuclear power plants which bracket the Twin Cities. If elected, she said, she would get an ordinance passed barring transportation of nuclear wastes within the city limits.

The candidates clashed most sharply over taxes. Moser demanded "that the burden be taken off working people. The corporations should be made to start paying for all the years they've gotten off virtually scot-free."

Latimer found the idea of placing the burden on the rich to be outrageous, declaring it "illegal, unconstitutional, and financially impossible to achieve."

The debate received considerable media attention, including front-page articles in the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* and the Minneapolis *Star*.



Libby Moser, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Paul (left), condemns energy plans of incumbent Democrat George Latimer (center).

NOW protests attack on Dallas SWP

DALLAS—At a March 11 news conference, harassment of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign in the Dallas area was protested by representatives of the SWP, Young Socialist Alliance, and Dallas County National Organization for Women.

The Dallas offices of the SWP have been hit by gunfire on four occasions. Police claim they can do nothing about this. Two campaign supporters were arrested March 6 at the University of Texas campus in nearby Arlington for distributing and selling literature supporting SWP candidates.

Alfreda Wright, representing Dallas County NOW, read a statement adopted by her organization the night before. It affirmed support for the civil

liberties of all, including members of the Socialist Workers Party.

"NOW is appalled," the statement continued, "that the Socialist Workers Party is being harassed and having the lives of their members put in danger by the simple exercise of their civil rights in a democracy. Dallas County NOW furthermore insists that the Socialist Workers Party is entitled to protection under the law, which they have not received."

"University administrators who approved the arrest of two socialists in Arlington played into the hands of the ultrarightists who were trying to silence the SWP with gunfire in Dallas," charged Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for Congress from the Fifth District.

Floyce White, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance who was arrested in Arlington, also spoke.

(A petition and fact sheet demanding that charges against White and Chris Horner be dropped are being distributed widely. The fact sheet lists numerous court cases which upheld the right to distribute and sell political literature on campuses and elsewhere.)

Others who protested the refusal of the Dallas police to put a stop to attacks on the SWP office include Jesse Jones, president of the Dallas Progressive League; Robert Medrano, member of the Dallas School Board; and Elbert Turner, past president of the Dallas A. Philip Randolph Institute.



Hear the Socialist Workers candidates



Andrew Pulley
candidate for president

March 23, 26	Portland
March 28-31	Puget Sound
April 4-5	Salt Lake City
April 7-8	Denver
April 11-13	Kansas City
April 17-19	Louisville

Matilde Zimmermann
candidate for vice-president

March 24-25	Indianapolis
March 29	Harrisburg
March 30-31	St. Louis
April 3-4	Milwaukee
April 5, 7-8	Cincinnati
April 11-12	Toledo
April 13-15	Cleveland
April 18-19	Morgantown

For more information, call the Socialist Workers Party branch nearest you. See the directory on page 23 for phone numbers and addresses.

Pulley & Zimmermann in 1980!

'We must guard this revolution'

Workers take over Nicaraguan factory

By Lorraine Thiebaud

MANAGUA—Union members at El Caracol Industries, a food-processing factory here, took over their plant February 19 but kept up full production. They prohibited owners Magelda and Oscar Campos from entering the factory.

The workers called on the government to investigate charges by union members that the Campos family was trying to bankrupt the company by reducing production and decapitalizing.

The following day, Carlos Núñez, commander of the National Directorate of the FSLN, and Ernesto Castillo, attorney general of Nicaragua, went to El Caracol for a four-hour meeting to hear the workers present their evidence. Castillo then sealed the management's offices and formally intervened the El Caracol factory while an investigation takes place.

The workers are conscious of the importance to the Nicaraguan diet of the food items they produce, so they pledged that the factory would work at full capacity while under government intervention.

The El Caracol factory has been operating for forty-six years in Nicaragua. It employs about 130 people, including seventy women. Their average wage is \$1,150 cordobas (about \$115 a month).

Warehouses almost empty

When I visited El Caracol on February 27, the first thing I noticed were the many signs and banners covering the front walls of the plant. They bore revolutionary slogans and solidarity messages from sympathizing unions.

Eager to explain their struggle, the workers displayed storerooms and warehouses which have been kept almost empty of raw materials in recent months, well below the minimum required to keep up the productive pace. Ten delivery trucks had been idled because the owners would not buy repair parts. Many of the machines in the factory now run only because the workers themselves have found ways to fix them.

Union leader Dennis Valdo explained that distribution routes had been trimmed by management from eight to five. During Somoza's regime, management allowed supermarkets eight days to meet their bills, but lately they have been required to pay on delivery.

One woman worker told me with outrage how vitamin supplements in



Militant photos by Lorraine Thiebaud

March 1 union meeting after takeover of El Caracol plant. Sign in photo at right reads: 'Workers united, capitalists defeated.'



foods widely consumed by children had been cut back; the owners had explained there was too little profit to justify the added expense.

Even though demand for El Caracol's products is greater than ever, and Nicaraguans confront high unemployment, work at the factory was cut to one shift. In September 1979, twenty-eight workers, primarily women, were fired because they were "unneeded." Meanwhile, the bosses imposed speed-up, making working conditions more difficult and hazardous for those who remained.

Ties to Somoza

Workers charge that the Campos family retains its ties to elements of the Somoza regime. Women workers said that before the insurrection they had been forced to prepare parties given by the Campos family for Somoza and his friends. They said that Somoza's secret police had helped spy on workers and obstruct union organizing. On one occasion, thirty workers had been fired, and several others captured and tortured by Somoza's National Guard. Workers also displayed company check stubs and vouchers paid to a well-known Somozaist criminal.

Most of the Campos family left Nicaragua before the insurrection and now live in Miami. Only Magelda and Oscar stayed behind, apparently intent on decapitalizing their several factories and large landholdings in order to

send as much money abroad as possible.

Immediately after the July 19 insurrection, they received a \$400,000 government loan to help restart El Caracol, but none of the money has seen its way to the factory.

Democratic, fighting union

The workers at El Caracol have had their own union for six months. As their concern mounted over the factory being run into the ground, they decided to hold a general assembly to discuss the problem. It was there that they voted—121 to 10—to take over the factory. Exemplary workers were elected to head each of the six productive areas. The union previously had monthly meetings, but since the takeover it meets almost daily.

Union members have good reason to fear sabotage—workers at another Campos-owned factory notified them of a recent bombing. So the El Caracol workers take turns at nightly guard duty at the factory.

The workers invited me and other reporters back to attend their union meeting on March 1. Union President

Oscar Martínez reaffirmed the commitment of the union members to the revolutionary process taking place in Nicaragua.

The union secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting, including an account of a lengthy discussion over whether or not to demand increased wages. The workers had decided not to ask for higher wages since, given the scarcity of consumer goods, this would simply lead to greater inflation that hits the lowest-paid workers and the unemployed most severely.

'The strongest class'

Adonis Jirón Morales, responsible for overall production, then reviewed the accomplishments of the workers since the takeover. The stock of primary materials was much higher and production had been increased by 66 percent.

All distribution trucks were now working. Seven of the twenty-eight workers previously fired had been rehired, and five more would begin in a few days.

Preparations were being made to start a second shift to increase production and to help more unemployed workers find a job. Several workers were investigating the possibility of adding a new barley cereal product.

Solutions to occupational health problems faced by the workers were being sought—earplugs against machine noises and masks for those constantly exposed to dust.

And the ten administration workers—who initially refused to participate in the takeover—had now agreed to cooperate fully with the union.

Orlando Espinosa, a representative of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) to which the El Caracol union is affiliated, expressed his satisfaction at working with a union leadership so politically mature, despite an average age of only twenty-three.

After the meeting, I asked Adonis Jirón Morales what outcome he hoped for from the factory takeover and intervention.

"We are willing to work in capitalist or state-owned factories to rebuild Nicaragua's material base for the future," he replied. "But if the capitalists won't make the factories run, we will."

"We are the strongest class in this country, and we must guard this revolution because this revolution is for the working class."

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

FSLN hails workers control

MANAGUA—The Government of National Reconstruction has adopted a tough decree against capitalist sabotage of this country's efforts at economic revival.

Decree Number 329, issued March 2, is aimed at all those "who by action or omission employ deceitful or fraudulent means to remove from the country the fixed or circulating assets of enterprises (that is, the capital of such enterprises)."

Violators of the new decree face the penalty of intervention of their enterprises (that is, putting them under state administration), plus fines of up to three times the value of the capital removed from Nicaragua. Individuals convicted under the decree may be jailed for one to three years.

An article in the February 22 *Poder Sandinista*, weekly organ of the FSLN National Secretariat of Propaganda and Political Education, explained the importance of mobilizing the workers to fight against decapitalization:

"The basic elements of production are:

"1. Production machinery, raw materials, construction equipment, auxiliary materials, transportation, financing, and so on.

"2. Human beings who constitute the labor force that makes use of the material elements and organizes them to bring about the production of material goods."

Although the "main productive force of the society," *Poder Sandinista* goes on, is "the workers who are the true producers of social wealth," financial and material resources are needed for workers to produce material goods.

"If such resources are removed from the country—as is the case with the flight of capital and equipment—and if on top of this there is destruction of necessary machinery and technical resources, then what we are witnessing are acts of decapitalization—destruction of sources of jobs and goods that endanger the

social well-being of the Nicaraguan people."

To block such sabotage of the economy, as well as to assure "a rational use of raw materials and other means of production," the Sandinista paper proposes workers control of production.

"The experience at El Caracol Industries is clear—the owners have been aiming to clear out and take huge profits. Will the revolutionary government permit such actions? Will the workers permit the destruction of their source of employment?"

"El Caracol Industries; Nicatex; Hurtado Cannery in Granada; Lacayo Supermarket, also in Granada—these mark the beginning of an anti-patriotic campaign that can only be halted by direct control over production by the workers and due attention by the state to such problems.

"Can we reactivate our economy with historical characters like the anti-patriotic businessmen? Obviously not."

By Kathe Latham

The most exciting aspect of our visit to Cuba with the Socialist Workers Party seminar in late January was the overwhelming enthusiasm of the Cuban people for the progress of their revolution.

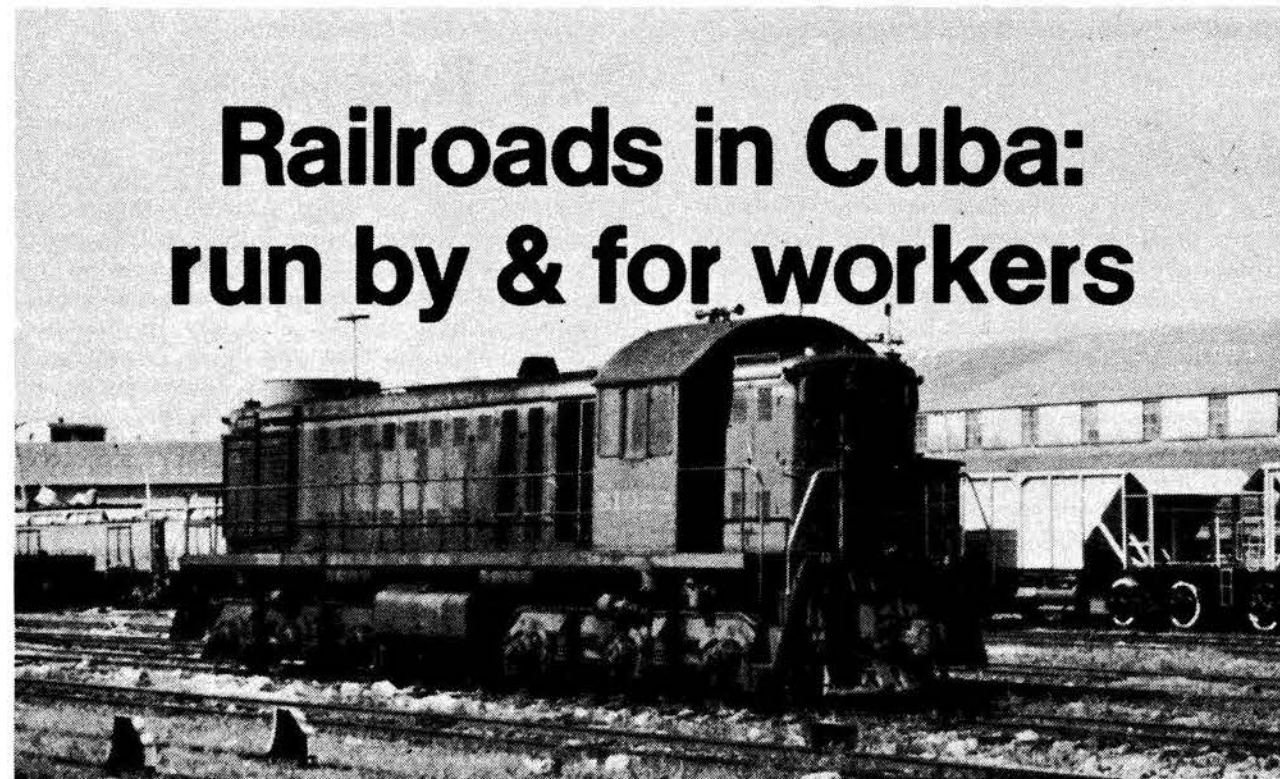
That's what the rail workers on the tour found when we visited the rail yards in Havana to compare them to the railroads we work under. We represented several different crafts: one fireman, a switchwoman, brakewoman, a switchman, and one telegrapher.

One of our two guides was a sixty-four year "old-timer" who couldn't stop boasting of the many gains that have been made since the revolution.

As he proceeded to give us a royal tour of the yard, this first-hand participant in the Cuban revolution would throw out statements like: "It's the youth of the world who will change things and make the world more humanitarian . . . just look at what's happening in Nicaragua! . . . The future is in your hands."

Train crew size

One of the first questions we asked was what the crew sizes were on the railroads.



Havana rail yard

Militant/Sylvia Zapata

The train crew size on most lines in the U.S. is currently two brakemen and a conductor. The engine crew usually consists of an engineer and occasionally a fireperson. However, to increase profits, there has been a consistent drive by the carriers throughout the U.S. to eliminate one brakeman—leaving only one brakeman and a conductor.

The standard minimum crew size in Cuba is two brakemen, two conductors, an engineer, and a fireperson. (There are currently two women in training to become engineers in Cuba.)

Our guide explained that given Cuba's policy of full employment, they are able to maintain full-size crews to perform the best possible service and to ensure the safety of the workers at all costs. "Service and safety are more important than anything else," our guide told us.

Since the railroads are nationalized in Cuba there is no profit drive to force the workers to work an inhuman number of hours when "big business" is booming and then to lay us off when they no longer need us and can't afford to pay us while maintaining profits. Workers are guaranteed employment in Cuba year round.

As we walked through the yard we passed some shining new flat cars made in the Soviet Union. We immediately noticed the absence of any grab irons on the end of the cars. "How do they hold on?" we asked?

We had to explain to our guide why the grab irons were necessary. In the U.S. trainpeople are forced to ride on moving cars while switching them out from track to track. Often we jump on and ride a cut of cars down into the track, sometimes while securing a handbrake at the same time.

Safety and workers' needs

Our guide was astonished that we did such dangerous things. "That is simply against our rules," he explained. In Cuba the work rules are

clearly designed by and for the workers.

We also noticed that all the handbrakes on the cars were so low that they could be secured only from the ground. Therefore there is no way under speed up to secure the brakes while the cars are moving as we do in the U.S.

But there is no need for speed up in Cuba. We were reminded every step of the way that the workers safety and needs come first.

In larger yards, our guide explained, they have automatic switches that make some of the back-breaking work easier. There is no worry over automation taking away jobs. In Cuba there is still a shortage of labor to accomplish the ambitious tasks of the Cuban government for better housing, schools, and services for the people.

Unlike the craft unions on the railroads in the U.S., which are pitted against each other instead of unifying rail labor, all the workers in the rail industry in Cuba are in one union.

Union investigations

If something should happen to a worker on the job the union holds the investigation to determine who is at fault. It's the workers themselves who decide if it was the negligence of the administration, the mistake of the worker, or faulty equipment.

If the administration is found to be at fault then it is up to the workers and union to see that they are reprimanded and the problem is corrected.

Our guide explained that there isn't the same kind of division between the administration and the workers as exists in the U.S. "We are all workers here," he explained. The administrators are workers who are sent to special training school to learn various safety and mechanical skills. They travel to such diverse railroad systems as England, France, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, and other countries to learn the most modern technology possible.

The administrators are not members of the union, but we could see that the antagonism we are accustomed to did not exist in Cuba.

As we entered the cafeteria, where the workers are fed a full balanced meal on their lunch breaks, there was a worker painting the outside of the building. Our guide smiled and said, "As a matter of fact, that guy out there painting the building is an administrator!" He explained that actually their job is harder because they have more responsibility. In the case of the cafeteria, the workers complained that it needed painting and the job was done pronto.

Education is central

Since Cuba is still a poor country suffering the effects of long colonial domination and the continuing U.S. economic blockade, the wages of rail workers naturally are not comparable to those we make in the United States. But as our guide explained, "We don't even need all the money we make because all of our needs are met—free—by the state."

This old timer was especially proud of this aspect of the revolution, since he had lived in Cuba under the brutal U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, where rampant poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and deprivation were the norm.

"Now we have nearly wiped out illiteracy," he said. "We all have jobs, and our housing, schools, and medical needs are met by the state." In Cuba workers pay only 6 percent of their wages for housing. "And even though we are still a 'poor' country, we are able to send hundreds of our peo-

ple—teachers, doctors, and technicians—to help in the reconstruction of Nicaragua," our guide boasted.

Before the revolution over 50 percent of the population was illiterate. That figure was drastically reduced to only 3 percent after the revolution. Education is seen here as the real yardstick of the progress of the revolution and remains a major campaign of the Cuban government.

He himself at sixty-four years of age is still taking on-the-job classes that are held in the cafeteria for workers to improve their reading and writing skills. He is part of the "battle for the sixth grade" campaign and told us proudly of his two sons, who are both studying to be doctors in England, "all paid for by our government."

We asked what kind of role rail workers played in the revolution. Our guide explained that the Cuban railroad workers played a key role both before and after the revolution because of their strategic position in the economy. "Rail workers all over the world have played a radical role and will continue to," our guide said with a wink.

End the blockade

We asked what problems they were faced with and how they were solving them. "Our main problem is still the economic blockade imposed by the U.S. We are unable to get spare parts for our engines and other machines. We are too poor to just go out and buy new equipment. Therefore much of our time goes into finding spare parts that will fit the old engines we must still use and in keeping them in safe running condition."

We saw this later when we visited a sugar mill in Cienfuegos in the countryside. There we saw late-1800s steam engines running in tip-top condition. They were so clean they looked like museum pieces. Quite a sharp contrast from the condition of the engines we use in the U.S., which are always filthy and in bad need of repair.

Furthermore these engines were run "energy efficient" by the wastes from the sugar refineries, as there is a shortage of petroleum. The U.S. government could learn about the uses of alternative energy resources from Cuba.

But the profit motive of the rich oil companies stands in the way.

Rail workers honored

Every year in Cuba, January 9 is National Railroad Day. Posters are printed and distributed all over the railroad saluting rail workers for their hard work. Every year a different city is chosen for a celebration, and the workers there have the day off. The state sends in food and refreshments for a gala celebration for them and their families.

At the end of our tour of the Havana Yard we were all given a poster of National Railroad Day as a gesture of solidarity to American railroad workers.

"You are young American workers," our guide said, shaking our hands. "We consider you our friends. Please tell the American people of our revolution—of the many wonderful gains we have made, that we are happy and that we are in solidarity with them as working people."

Trip spurs interest

When I returned to my job after visiting Cuba, I was pleasantly surprised at how many of my co-workers in the yard were interested in my trip and actually sought me out to find out what it was like.

During "beans" (lunch break) several of us would sit around and talk about the trip.

We got into an extensive discussion of what is a workers state and what democracy really meant—were workers really more free under the capitalist system?

We all agreed we were working for the profits of the corporations and oil companies and that our working conditions all depended on the fluctuations in profits of the major carriers. We discussed what it would be like if we ran the rail industry ourselves and why nationalization of the rail industry is something we should be fighting for.

It didn't take long for many of my co-workers to persuade me to bring in my slides of our tour—pictures not only of the late 1800s steam engines still in clean and safe condition but also of the schools, the countryside, and the people.

Working people are beginning to question seriously the way this country is run and are much more open to thinking about other forms of government. One of my Black co-workers was so inspired he was convinced he should go to Cuba himself and check it out.

—K.L.

Kathe Latham is a switchwoman and member of United Transportation Union Local 1469 in Oakland, California.

The Great Society

Harry Ring



Rational response—We've always been skeptical of the assurances that computers can't think. Like, take Wimex, the billion-dollar system that's supposed to warn the president of impending attack or international crisis. According to probers it keeps breaking down at moments of crisis.

Foolproof — "WASHINGTON — A device installed to help prevent another Three Mile Island accident caused a short circuit that shut down the Crystal River nuclear power plant in Florida last week. . . ."—News item.

Law 'n order dep't—A Los Angeles lawyer turned in an undocumented worker to the Immigration Service, explaining it was his duty as an officer of the court to help deport anyone here illegally. Also, the worker was a witness against his client, a sweatshop operator charged with failing to pay previously ordered back wages.

At a minimum—Clifford C. Garvin, Jr., chairman of Exxon, says he doesn't have "any reason to argue" with a government prediction that gas

will be \$1.50 a gallon by year's end.

Wanna bet?—"I came to Chicago several times in 1976. I urged you to give your support to a fellow Georgian named Jimmy Carter. I was sincere about it and I trusted the man. I apologize for my misjudgment. . . . I am here today to urge you to support Sen. Edward Kennedy in the March primary. This time I'm sure I won't have to come back and apologize." Former SCLC leader Ralph Abernathy.

More sleep per mile—Customs officials claim they caught a fellow coming across from Mexico, where gas is a lot cheaper, with a waterbed holding 500 gallons of the precious stuff.

March of civilization—Henry Ford II and his spouse Christina ended their marriage with an out-of-court settlement involving some \$15-20 million. Said Henry II's lawyer, "It's a civilized way to do things."

Their Government

The great 1980 'competence' race

The savior of the nation is on the way!

Can't you see him, off in the distance? The man falling off the white horse. . . .

Our long-awaited hero was, of course, Gerald Ford. Ford briefly emerged from the golf course near his estate in Rancho Mirage, California, to proclaim his own second coming. He told reporters on March 1 that he would seek the Republican presidential nomination "if there was an honest-to-goodness, bona fide urging by a broad-based group in my party."

A few weeks later, not having received the "honest-to-goodness" response from party bosses that he hoped for, Ford declared that he would not be a candidate and faded back into Rancho Mirage.

After Ford's initial expression of interest, part of the media began presenting the former president—of whom it had been said that he couldn't walk and chew gum at the same time—as a paragon of competence who could resolve international conflicts, hold down inflation, and restore prosperity.

What accounted for the sudden interest in Ford? The *Wall Street Journal* explained it in a front-page news note on March 14:

"Carter's weakness leaves him basically vulnerable to a political nose dive.

"Polls show the President slipping now in popu-

larity. A series of setbacks raises the competence issue anew. He has no good choices for getting the hostages out of Iran soon. The blunder on the UN Israel vote shakes confidence in Carter. The economy runs out of control, with little hope of basic improvement by November."

The media describe the issue in 1980 as "competence." And all the Republican and Democratic contenders say that's the issue too—their sterling competence versus the ineptitude of everybody else.

But the media have been giving and taking away the mantle of "competence" at high speed.

Last fall Carter was the bumbler, while Kennedy was said to have the dynamic personality needed to bring us together.

With the crises in Iran and Afghanistan, the big-business media began to build up Carter as a firm and calm leader. Kennedy now was presented as a panicky kid with his foot perpetually in his mouth.

Now Carter's "competence" is plummeting again. And Gerald Ford—who was universally considered a political klutz in 1976—began getting the "tower of strength" treatment.

What is this fickle "competence"?

For the rulers, this term is code for the ability of one or another candidate to put over attacks on working people at home and abroad in the interest

Fred Feldman



of the employers. By using terms like competence, the media try to keep voters focused on the personality of this or that candidate rather than on the antilabor policies that all of them stand for.

For a time after the U.S. Embassy was occupied in Tehran, big business had hopes that Carter might be able to sell the draft, higher oil prices, cutbacks in public services, and lower wages by wrapping himself in the flag. But from the burgeoning antidraft movement to the fight of oil strikers for a decent wage, all signs point to stiffening resistance by working people.

When we didn't buy President Carter's call for sacrifice, his "competence" rating sagged. Big business—which has ultimate say over who gets nominated by the Republican and Democratic parties—began to take another look at the alternatives.

They are finding it difficult to find anyone who can put this program over.

The upheavals in places like Iran and Afghanistan, and the growing suspicion of government and spirit of militancy of workers here at home, are combining to create a real crisis of leadership for the rich.

The short-lived attempt to build up Gerald Ford as a man who could walk on water was a sign of their growing difficulties.

Women in Revolt

Suzanne Haig



Exploited sisters in Southeast Asia

"We hire girls because they have less energy, are more disciplined, and are easier to control."

This statement may sound familiar but it was made halfway around the world—by a personnel officer of Intel Corporation, an electronics manufacturer in Malaysia.

From the Philippines to Thailand and South Korea, some 200,000 to 300,000 women are working in the fastest growing industry in Southeast Asia—electronics.

A wealth of information on their plight is contained in a special joint issue of *Southeast Asia Chronicle* and *Pacific Research* (available for \$1.25 from Southeast Asia Resource Center, P.O. Box 4000D, Berkeley, California 94704).

Author Rachael Grossman tells how U.S. electronics firms send the labor-intensive part of their operations to Southeast Asia where labor, especially female, is cheap.

The women live packed together in boarding houses or on mats in slums and make about a dollar a day.

For eight hours daily, with little time for lunch, they sit in assembly-line rows peering into microscopes to assemble the tiny circuits. By their seats lie open vats of dangerous chemicals into which they dip the circuit boards.

Toxic fumes cause the workers to suffer from

headaches, eye infections, dizziness, and nausea. After three years their vision begins to deteriorate and they are laid off. Many become prostitutes, for there is little work.

In order to ensure high productivity and bar working-class solidarity, the corporations use "human relations" techniques coupled with authoritarian discipline to manipulate and control the women.

Companies spend thousands on beauty contests, sewing classes, shoe sales, and singing competitions to mask the exploitation.

Production competitions pit individual workers against each other. Behind the contests is grueling work at high speed. Talking is prohibited, and each woman has a productivity chart by her bench with daily quotas that must be filled or else she is fired.

Behind all the tricks and rules is the company's fear of unions, which could mean a united work force, higher wages, safety, and job security.

U.S. foreign policy is designed to help these giant corporations prosper. They lost Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos to the workers and peasants of those countries. But Washington continues to provide military hardware, billions of dollars, and tens of thousands of U.S. troops to prop up repressive regimes throughout the rest of Southeast Asia.

At the same time that the U.S. electronics companies are exploiting the women of Southeast Asia, they are creating a revolutionary force.

From sheltered village life, these young, unmarried women are being thrust into modern capitalist industries existing amid backwardness and poverty.

Independent for the first time, they are eager to provide a better life for themselves and their parents.

Daily life teaches them that they are exploited by U.S. imperialism, which relies on ruthless client governments to hold down the work force. And they are learning that as workers they are a powerful force for change.

These women workers are truly our sisters in struggle. Their needs are central to the developing women's movement in the colonial countries. They will play a leading role in the revolutionary upsurge of the workers and peasants in Southeast Asia. Vietnam, Laos, Cuba, and Nicaragua will be their models.

So when Carter gets on TV and talks about increasing the war budget, drafting women and men, and building a powerful military for "national security," he's talking about ensuring the continued exploitation by U.S. corporations of workers like these Asian women.

And when we fight here against the draft and to prevent another Vietnam War, we are making it easier for these women and their brothers to fight for liberation.



Just a bunch of good old boys?

Pity the Ku Klux Klan. They're not really the scum that most of us think them to be. They're just a bunch of good old boys who've been maligned and misunderstood.

That's what poet Ruth Moose would have us believe in an opinion-page column in the March 10 *New York Times*. The editors entitled her piece "Decent Klansmen."

Moose really knows the Klan because her daddy and granddaddy-in-law were members. And since daddy and granddaddy were "fine, gentle, humane people . . . deeply caring about their country and their fellow human beings," the Klan just can't be all that bad.

Poor, hard-working granddaddy, says Moose, only wore his white robe for a "few solemn occasions." And during his time the "Klan was the conscience of a community."

Daddy, we are told, "was too good-hearted for his own good." His only failing, it seems, is that "he cared" too much. "He cared about the company he worked for, his family, neighbors, friends," some of whom were even Black.

This pious portrait of daddy and granddaddy could almost make one forget about the organization to which they belonged. Almost.

Never mind the racist invective that drips from the lips of these merchants of hate. Never mind the

"few solemn occasions" in U.S. history when Klanners have donned their robes and gone out to murder, maim, torture, and mutilate thousands of Blacks and whites. Never mind the murder of four Black girls in a Klan bombing of a church in Birmingham in 1963. Never mind the brutal slaying by Klansmen and Nazis of five anti-Klan demonstrators in Greensboro, North Carolina, last November 3.

None of this is important for Moose. The halo and wings on daddy and granddaddy have lifted them above the blood-smeared reality of their organization.

Moose's article brings to mind something I noticed when in South Africa more than a year ago—how American whites are sometimes taken in by the hospitality of racist white South Africans. "Surely, there can't be anything wrong with these people; they were so nice to me."

That is hardly the point.

It so happens that my grandmother worked as a cook in New Orleans for the family of David Duke, now Grand Wizard of one Klan faction. She describes the family as having been good to her, including young David. Am I to ignore his present activities because he happens to have been nice to my grandmother?

Let's be clear. The Ku Klux Klan stands on a

program that is racist to the core—the establishment of white supremacy. More important, it relies on violence to achieve its objectives.

The Klan seeks to pit whites against Blacks and thus prevent working-class whites from joining with Blacks to struggle against their real enemy—the ruling rich.

That it not be accused of being an apologist for the Klan, the *Times* "balances" Moose's article with one presenting the other side. And what does that consist of? A hand-wringing New York liberal who directs her anti-southern and anti-working-class prejudices at an individual Klansman—her husband's friend—and ends up feeling guilty for "countering his hate with my own."

This kind of editorial decision is a racist affront of the worst kind—opening the pages of the *Times* to racist propaganda while pretending to offer a counter statement. It's no surprise that a picket line—in which the National Anti-Klan Network, the National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee, and the Socialist Workers Party were represented—was held in front of the *Times* office.

The *Times* is not alone in this transparent attempt to deodorize the Klan. Ever since the Greensboro murders, other leading liberal mouthpieces for the ruling class have made an effort to excuse the violence of these vermin. More about this insidious move next week.

Reading From Left to Right

Gus Horowitz



Social democrats shun Iran revolution

For an insight into the social-democratic attitude toward revolution, pick up a copy of the Winter 1980 *Dissent*, edited by Irving Howe and Michael Walzer (and with Michael Harrington on the editorial board). It features an article, "Iran: From the Shah's Dictatorship to Khomeini's Demagogic Theocracy," by Sharif Arani.

Stylishly written and sophisticated, including the trappings of social analysis interlarded with psychology—"I prefer to stick with the old-fashioned Durkheim," says the author—Arani's article will likely satisfy those who are repelled by the Iranian revolution but who are uneasy over the vulgar anti-Iran crudities of the mass media.

Arani sets out to explain how "the call to Islam," which served as a battering ram against the shah, "changed from an idiom of protest to an instrument of clerical domination."

He attributes part of the answer to the clergy's intransigent and clear-sighted pursuit of its objectives. The "turbaned rulers," as he calls them scornfully, got financial support from the "Bazaar" (merchants and other sectors of the traditional economy), and mass backing from the "Disinherited" (the urban poor).

For Arani, however, the Disinherited are at a "prepolitical" level. By "taking care to feed the Disinherited" the Islamic government easily manipulates them, causing them to distrust the Western

nized upper strata, to become vehemently anti-imperialist, and to provide thugs for the "mob-dominated regime."

Arani is just as contemptuous of the working class (it is quieted by "granting it wages far in excess of its productivity"), and he scarcely even mentions the peasants.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that facts like the masses' involvement in political life for the first time or the formation of workers' committees in the factories—that is, the evidence of continuing social revolution—escape Arani's attention. For the accomplished social-democrat, the oppressed and exploited are mere objects of history, never its prime movers.

It is Arani's thesis that power ought rightfully to have fallen to the upper middle class at the end of 1978, when it became clear (to Arani, writing retrospectively) that the shah was doomed.

The shah "begged the middle class to inherit the state and the country. . . . He was not the megalomaniac of 1975, but the shaken dejected prisoner of the Niavaran palace who was only insisting on a respectable exit."

The middle class, however, failed to grasp the historic opportunity. "Bakhtiar did courageously step forward" (to become the shah's final prime minister), but the rest of the middle class "abdicated their political responsibility," succumbed to "in-

flammatory rhetoric palatable to the outraged populace," and "passed on the gift the Shah was begging them to inherit to the Grand Ayatollah and his Mullahs."

It is fortunate indeed that the "outraged populace" of Iran rejected Arani's proposal for "courageous" compromise with the shah—in reality a typically social democratic formula for capitulation. For otherwise the shah, who even to this day has not renounced his claim to the throne, would have been able to ride out the revolutionary storm and re-emerge at the propitious moment as powerful and more murderous than ever.

Aside from these fundamental defects, Arani does seem to have an insight into the reactions of the ruling classes and upper middle class strata of Iran as the shah's regime crumbled—due, no doubt, to his familiarity with the subject matter. But his discussion of the wretched of the earth is devoid of any worth.

Arani and his kind are dejected now. Their visceral hatred of Khomeini occludes their vision; they can see no alternative and no positive outcome; above all, they cannot see, nor do they even look for, the signs of independent organization and mobilization of the working masses.

And that, too, is characteristic of the social democrats.

What's Going On

MINNESOTA IRON RANGE

CUBA TODAY: FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT WITH SLIDE SHOW. Speaker: Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 8th C.D. Fri., March 21, 7:30 p.m. Carpenters Hall, 307 N. First St., Virginia. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (218) 749-6327.

NEW YORK LOWER MANHATTAN

FILMS FOR ACTIVISTS: "No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger." Special guest: David Loeb Weiss, director of the film. Followed by brief discussion on the lessons of the 1960s antiwar movement for the antidraft movement of the 1980s. Thurs., March 27, 7:30 p.m. 108 E. 16th St., 2nd floor (half block east of Union Square). Donation: \$2. Ausp: New York Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (212) 260-6400.

OHIO TOLEDO

OIL WORKERS ON STRIKE. Speaker: Dave Marazon, secretary-treasurer of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-346. Sun., March 23, 7 p.m. 2120 Dorr. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (419) 536-0383.

OREGON PORTLAND

HISTORY OF RACISM IN OREGON. Speaker: Paul Freeman, member, Machinists Local 1005. Sun., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 711 N.W. Everett St. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

NO NUCLEAR POWER. Film showing with speakers from Los Angeles Alliance for Survival and discussion of future activities. Tues., April 8, 7 p.m. San Diego State University, Aztec Center, Room C. Ausp: Alliance for Survival. For more information call (714) 272-8459.

SAN FRANCISCO

ARE HUMAN BEINGS REALLY GREEDY? Speaker: Stephanie Coontz, faculty member, Evergreen State College, member, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 22, 8 p.m. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

COLORADO DENVER

ANTINUKE PICKET. Fri., March 28, 12 noon. Public Service Building, 15th and Glenarm. Ausp:

Aurarian Nuclear Education Project. For more information call (303) 629-3320.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

ISSUES FACING WORKING WOMEN. Speakers: Juliet Clardy, executive board, United Auto Workers CAP Council, member Harvester Local 226; Phyllis Lee, Socialist Workers Party; others to be announced. Sat., March 29, 7 p.m. 4850 N. College. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (317) 283-6149.

MICHIGAN DETROIT

NO NUKES! Slide show: "Nuclear Power, Miracle or Menace?" Followed by panel discussion. Sun., March 30, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

Debs on capitalist war



Eugene Debs speaking in Canton, Ohio

Eugene V. Debs, the great pioneer leader of the American socialist movement, was a staunch opponent of capitalist war, militarism, and the draft.

For that reason, he was arrested during World War I and served nearly three years in jail.

We reprint here brief excerpts from his historic speech at Canton, Ohio, June 16, 1918. It was on the basis of this speech that Debs was jailed.

Also, we are reprinting excerpts of an article, "In Whose War Will I Fight" which appeared September 11, 1915, in the *Appeal to Reason*, a mass circulation socialist weekly.

Here Debs made clear that while he opposed capitalist war, he was not a pacifist and was ready to support just and necessary wars.

In the recent past there have been a number of just and necessary wars against imperialist aggression.

And, if the hands of the Wall Street warmakers is not stayed, there will be more.

When the Vietnamese people defeated Washington's aggression and ended imperialist domination of their country, that was a just war. Similarly, in 1961, when the Cuban people smashed a U.S.-organized invasion of their island.

Today, Washington is threatening the Middle East and probing the possibility of large-scale intervention in countries such as Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In such wars, Debs would have been squarely on the side of the liberation forces.

FROM THE CANTON SPEECH

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder. In the Middle Ages when the feudal lords . . . concluded to enlarge their domains, to increase their power, their prestige and

their wealth, they declared war upon one another. . . .

The feudal barons of the Middle Ages, the economic predecessors of the capitalists of our day, declared all wars. And their miserable serfs fought all the battles. The poor, ignorant serfs had been taught to revere their masters; to believe that when their masters declared war on one another, it was their patriotic duty to fall upon one another and to cut one another's throats for the profit and glory of the lords and barons who held them in contempt. And that is war in a nutshell.

The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose—especially their lives.

They have always taught and trained you to believe it to be your patriotic duty to go to war and have yourselves slaughtered at their command. . . .

And here let me emphasize the fact—and it cannot be repeated too often—that the working class who fight all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. . . .

*Yours is not to reason why
Yours but to do or die.*

That is their motto and we object on the part of the awakening workers of this nation.

If war is right let it be declared by the people. You who have your lives to lose, you certainly above all others have the right to decide the momentous issue of war or peace.

'IN WHOSE WAR WILL I FIGHT'

No, I am not opposed to all war, nor am I opposed to fighting under all circumstances, and any declaration to the contrary would disqualify me as a revolutionist.

When I say I am opposed to war I mean ruling class war. . . . It matters not to me whether this war is offensive or defensive, or what other lying excuse may be invented for it, I am opposed to it, and I would be shot for treason before I would enter such a war.

If I were in Congress, I would be shot before I would vote a dollar for such a war. . . .

I am not a capitalist soldier; I am a proletarian revolutionist. I do not belong to the regular army of the plutocracy, but to the irregular army of the people. . . . I am opposed to every war but one; I am for that war with heart and soul, and that is the worldwide war of the social revolution. In that war I am prepared to fight in any way the ruling class make it necessary, even to the barricades.



Racine Labor Press

Hostages of U.S. Steel

"If the guys upstairs were half smart, this incident would tell them something—ease up!"

"The guy should be a martyr, a hero."

These comments by two of my co-workers were typical of the response to an unusual event here at U.S. Steel's Minntac mine on the Mesabi Iron Range.

On March 3 at 10:30 p.m., John Rosman, a thirty-five-year-old laborer here, occupied the guard house at the main gate. He took a foreman and three guards hostage for over six hours.

Rosman demanded to talk to local media and C.W. Niemi, the general superintendent of Minntac. Rosman was upset about bad working conditions and the way the company, big business, and the government are run.

He was especially angry about safety practices at Minntac. Five days earlier, Shelly Salo, a twenty-one-year-old woman who worked with Rosman, was killed in the pit. The company blames her for her own death.

Rosman has been jailed and charged with four counts of

kidnapping and assault. U.S. Steel describes him as a deranged individual who lost touch with reality. But for myself, I believe that Rosman was venting the frustration and outrage felt by all of us under the thumb of U.S. Steel.

The company recently laid off almost 200 people, put thousands of others on a four-day week, dramatically stepped up harassment and disciplinary actions against workers by management, and barely noticed the death of Shelly Salo. On top of all this, inflation is ruining us, and we are faced with the possibility of another Vietnam.

The sympathy of workers here with Rosman's action reminds me of the sympathy of the Iranian people for the students who took the hostages at the U.S. Embassy (the USA's guardhouse there). In fact, a guy on my crew recently nicknamed the plant cops here SAVAK, after the shah of Iran's secret police.

I don't think the company is going to ease up. Maybe incidents like this one will make us all stop and realize that our brothers and sisters in Iran, Colombia, or right here at

Woman prisoner appeals against dioxin poisoning

I am an inmate in the Federal Correctional Institution [for women] in Alderson, West Virginia.

Last August the entire prison compound was sprayed with the herbicide 2,4-D, one of the deadliest substances on earth. It is closely related to 2,4,5-T, commonly known as Agent Orange.

Both of these are dioxin compounds which are said to cause leukemia, chromosomal damage, birth defects, etc.

Spraying of 2,4-D is to resume this spring. The head of the landscape department said this herbicide is being used to control the growth of dandelions and broad leaf plants. He said 2,4-D is safe enough to drink.

We need any literature that you can get that will substantiate that 2,4-D is toxic and will endanger the lives and yet-unborn children

of all inmates and staff who live and work here. I am aware that Love Canal in New York is saturated with dioxin, causing the evacuation and the slow death of hundreds of people.

Please do whatever you can and now. Contact whoever you know that can get the spraying of this substance stopped and please send whatever information you can that can be presented to the authorities here so that they will have second thoughts before subjecting us to this deadly chemical.

Please send information to Warden Kenneth Neagle, Associate Warden Jack Fervurly, and Dr. Krug, Federal Correctional Institution, Alderson, West Virginia, 24910.

Also send copies to Hospitality House, Box 509; Alderson, West Virginia 24910. A prisoner Alderson, West Virginia

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Learning About Socialism

Draft protests shake imperialist logic

home are as messed over by big business as we are. It's time we get together to get out from under its domination of our lives.

Rich Stuart
Virginia, Minnesota

Chicano martyrs

On March 17, 1973, shortly after midnight, approximately 200 cops under the direction of Denver Police Chief Art Dill launched a murderous assault on the buildings which housed the Crusade for Justice and the Escuela Tlatelolco dormitory.

In that attack Luis "Junior" Martinez was shot to death, Ernesto Vigil, a leader of the Crusade, was shot in the back, and many others were severely wounded and beaten. A large portion of the dormitory was destroyed by an explosion, which injured several Chicanos and which was caused by the cops.

Each year ceremonies have been held in Denver by the Crusade to honor the memory of Luis Martinez.

It is also appropriate at this time to recall the memories of seven other Chicano activists from Colorado who died within a year and a half of each other.

In September '72 Ricardo Falcon was shot to death in New Mexico by an Anglo gas station owner while on his way to the first National Convention of La Raza Unida Party in El Paso, Texas.

On May 27 and 29, 1974, two separate bomb blasts took the lives of Florencio "Freddie" Granados, Heriberto Terán, Francisco Southerly, Reyes Martinez, Neva Romero, and Una Jaakola. The explosions took place as the activists were sitting in parked cars in Boulder, Colorado. It is believed that these six were victims of cop-planted bombs.

I lived in Denver during this period of time and knew five of these young revolutionists. I recall that on the occasion of Junior's death, Crusade leader Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales told a meeting that Luis was a martyr of the Chicano people. And that although we are a people who have too many martyrs the memory of each reminds all of those living to continue the struggle for which they gave their lives.

En Solidaridad,
Raul Gonzalez
Jersey City, New Jersey

The 'Militant' special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The *Christian Science Monitor* published a worried editorial February 21, using as the title the antidraft slogan, "We won't fight for Exxon."

Slogans like that, says the *Monitor*, cause "concern about the often superficial reasoning of those now joining antidraft movements on campuses." Such slogans "betray a lack of understanding of the issues involved."

"Even worse," in the *Monitor's* view, is that the slogans of the antidraft movement "sometimes seem to convey an attitude of unwillingness to sacrifice—even to the extent of minor inconvenience—for any cause, whatever the stake."

What the *Monitor* is really worried about is that the antidraft protesters are coming to a greater understanding of the real issues involved, that they are expressing something profound about the relationship between capitalism and war, and that they are unwilling to sacrifice their lives for the unworthy cause of profits.

Let's look at three examples that the *Monitor* exhibits as signs of superficial reasoning.

First, the slogan about Exxon. "Safeguarding the Middle East oil supplies is not a favor to the big oil companies," argues the *Monitor*. "It has to do with the very economic health of the Western world."

The goal of the oil-producing nations is not to cut off oil. Their goal is to sell oil. The peoples of these countries insist, however, that oil revenues be used to advance and industrialize their societies.

It is the determination of Exxon and the other oil giants to reap superprofits from their control over sale, transport, and distribution of oil—at the expense of both U.S. consumers and the oil-producing nations—that causes tension. It is the effort by Washington to maintain the Middle East as its strategic preserve that threatens war.

The possibility of oil cutoffs or reductions has been conceived only as a defensive measure against these imperialist policies. Stop imperialist designs on the area and the threat of oil cutoffs or reductions would become nonexistent. There would be no problem if we had a workers and farmers government in the United States, rather than one beholden to Exxon and the other big corporations.

A second concern of the *Monitor* is the view expressed by one antidraft student: "I don't think the Russian invasion of Afghanistan was better or worse than the American invasion of Vietnam. The Russian empire acts much the same as the American empire. I don't think either is worth dying for."

That argument, says the *Monitor*, "shows an appalling ignorance of history and of the diametrically opposed natures of the American and Soviet systems . . ." U.S. policies in Vietnam and elsewhere "warrant sober public scrutiny, and often strong criticism," but Soviet policy, the *Monitor* teaches, is always aggressive, as in East Europe—and now Afghanistan."

On the contrary, the idea the student expressed does show insight into U.S. history. The war in Vietnam was not a tragic mistake, but part of a pattern of imperialist actions by Washington, a consistent pattern irrespective of whether the administration is Democratic or Republican, conservative or liberal.

The capitalist system in the United States depends for its survival on the domination of the economies and the subjugation of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. That is why whenever these peoples rebel against their oppressors, Washington sides with those upholding the old order.

In this respect—and here the student is mistaken—Soviet policy stems from a different source. The Kremlin's goal is not economic control (the Soviet economy is not ruled by the profit drive), but stability on its borders and at home. The Kremlin seeks to prevent the growth and spread of democratic rights in East Europe, and should be condemned for it. But in Afghanistan it is acting to prevent the ultraright guerrillas from taking power. The rightists' aim is reversal of the social gains that the Afghan people have made.

The final argument of the *Monitor* is the following: "But can it seriously be thought the United States could do without a defense? . . . The question youth, indeed all Americans, ought to be addressing is whether the all-volunteer army is meeting the nation's defense requirements and, if not, what can be done about it."

No, the question is not whether the U.S. needs a defense, but whether it needs an offense. The U.S. armed forces are designed for offensive purposes, not defensive ones. They are designed to put down revolutions abroad, and to prepare for the possibility of launching a nuclear war against the USSR.

The rapid deployment force, the draft, and the other new proposals to beef up the armed forces are designed for these reactionary purposes.

The question we ought to be addressing is not whether the all-volunteer army is adequate as a counter-revolutionary force, but whether counterrevolution should be the nature of U.S. foreign policy at all. We should be discussing how to change the government and social system so that foreign policy can reflect the interests of the workers and farmers rather than the corporations likes Exxon.

It is a great merit of the antidraft protests that they do cause people to address fundamental questions like these, and that the answers needed go straight to the heart of the matter.

Ruling class publications like the *Monitor* are right to be concerned about this, for it means that a new generation is discarding the moral argument for capitalism and is beginning to learn about socialism.

—Gus Horowitz

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THE MILITANT

Eyewitness report of El Salvador massacre Get U.S. arms and 'advisers' out!

The U.S.-backed military junta in El Salvador responded to an effective general strike March 17 with the massacre of scores of people throughout the small Central American country. Initial estimates placed the number killed at sixty, but it is likely much higher.

The strike to protest the growing government and rightist repression was called by the Revolutionary Coordinating Committee of the Masses, a coalition of the four main revolutionary groups.

The day after the massacre, the junta claimed leftists had provoked the country-wide violence. 'This is not a repressive government,' declared José Antonio Morales Ehrlich, a Christian Democratic member of the junta.

This and other lies churned out by the government there were featured in the 'New York Times' and 'Washington Post.' At the same time, the 'Post' buried (and the 'Times' didn't mention) a March 17 Washington news conference by three former leaders of the Christian Democratic Party.

Héctor Dada, until recently a member of the ruling junta, former presidential minister Ruben Zamora, and Alberto Arene, former chief of the country's leading peasant development financing organization, appealed to the United States to halt all military aid to the Salvadoran regime.

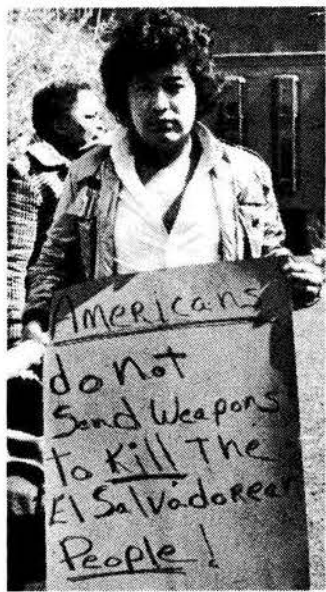
They said it would only worsen the violence in their country. More than 600 have died at the hands of the military and right wing just since the start of the year.

The U.S. Congress is now discussing Carter's proposal to send \$5.7 million more in arms plus 'advisers' to El Salvador.

In the following 'Militant' exclusive, Swedish journalist Lars Palmgren describes what he saw on March 17.

By Lars Palmgren

SAN SALVADOR, March 17—The massacre began about 2 a.m. when the army surrounded the National Univer-



March 15 demonstration of 200 in Washington, D.C., protested U.S. military aid to El Salvador. Actions also occurred in New York City and San Francisco. A popular chant was, 'No draft, no war, U.S. out of El Salvador!'

sity with about 1,000 soldiers. You could hear steady shooting until about 10 a.m. when it calmed down a little.

At that moment I was on my way down to the industrial area. All the factories were closed and banners hung outside expressing support for the strike and demanding an end to the repression and to U.S. military intervention.

From there I went to another area with about twenty or twenty-five factories. The streets were empty as everyone was inside the factories. I stopped to talk with Red Cross workers, who said the army was preventing them from going down the street even though there had been heavy shooting.

After a while we saw a convoy coming from the factory area, including two small tanks, two or three trucks filled with soldiers, two small pickup trucks filled with men who were civilian dressed but heavily armed. Beyond them, about fifty soldiers were on foot.

When I tried to take photos of them, one pointed a gun at me, screaming threats.

After they passed, we went down to the factories. The worst hit was Aplear, a producer of electronic equip-

ment owned by a U.S. company. Young women came out the door crying and screaming.

Inside, we saw blood all over the floor and on the walls. The doors and furniture were broken. About fifty people were still there, most of them wounded by bullets or beaten.

In another room, we saw the dead bodies of four men and one woman.

Outside the factory, there was another man lying dead in a pool of blood.

The people told me the soldiers had been there about two hours terrorizing them.

This was a factory that had been shut down by its owners in December. The workers had asked the government to resume production, and it had tentatively agreed. This was the very day that the government was supposed to come and discuss the proposal and pay the workers for the month of February. Instead they came with soldiers.

From there I went downtown and saw four other factories surrounded by the army. The soldiers wouldn't allow journalists or the Red Cross near.

The military blockade was very far away from the university, so I was

unable to see what was happening inside. One witness told me he had seen planes bombing the university area in the morning.

There were also a lot of civilian-dressed police and paramilitary rightists. Every branch of the repressive forces joined the massacre—police, army, national guard, and air force. I saw the army and police arm civilian men and send them away.

It was a day of war and terror for the people of El Salvador. But there were also expressions of courage and determination to fight. The fact that workers in almost all the factories supported the strike was a big success for the Revolutionary Coordinating Committee of the Masses.

People here condemn U.S. intervention. They talk of the millions of dollars of military aid given. They say trucks from the ports arrive daily with arms from the U.S. They report the U.S. is helping to construct three new helicopter bases, from which the military sends nightly missions to terrorize the peasants.

There are reportedly thirty-two U.S. military "advisers" here, and U.S. Marines from the embassy have directly participated in acts of repression.

W.Va. coal miners walk out over firings

By Pat O'Brien

MORGANTOWN, W. VA., March 19—Consolidation Coal Company has provoked the second major walkout in a month in the northern West Virginia coalfields.

The latest strike by members of United Mine Workers District 31 came on the heels of an arbitration ruling upholding the firing of four miners. They had been charged with "illegal picketing" during the earlier strike sparked by the firing of UMWA Local 4060 President Mike Zemonick at Consol's Four States mine.

Seven more miners face hearings on similar charges and Consol officials are rumored to be preparing to suspend sixty more.

Within hours of the arbitration ruling March 15, Consol's operations at Blacksville, Four States, Robinson Run, Loveridge, and Miracle Run were shut down and 2,000 miners were out. By early Wednesday, March 19, every Consol mine in the district had been shut down with more than 3,500 off the job.

Angry miners had returned to work March 3 under the threat of heavy fines to await an appeal of the firing of Mike Zemonick. But when the new firings came down, their anger boiled over and they decided to go out again.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Maxwell moved against the miners less than forty-eight hours after the March 15 walkout began, imposing

retroactive fines of more than \$15,000. Maxwell also imposed fines of \$3,000 a shift as long as the miners stay out.

These strikes cap a series of shorter disputes and walkouts over safety, job assignments, and vacation schedules at Consol mines in the area during the past few weeks. In addition, 600 miners in UMWA District 6 at Consol's Shoemaker mine, in the northern panhandle of West Virginia, walked off the job March 12 when the company fired three miners there.

Consol's escalating provocations are the opening moves in an attempt to deal the union a costly setback in District 31, a union stronghold, in advance of the next contract negotia-

tions. Talks are set to begin next month.

The actions by Consol come amid reports that the coal giant will soon rejoin the Bituminous Coal Operators Association on the condition that the BCOA approves a plan that Consol and two other industry giants exercise complete control over the next round of contract negotiations.

The hard line taken by Consol and the move to restructure the 130-member industry group serves notice that the giant oil and coal monopolies intend to break the powerful UMWA—a goal they failed to achieve in 1978, when the miners defied the companies and courts for 110 days.